

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 20, 2014

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RING HERO

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PANTO STAR

Coronation Street bad boy's festive role



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Call for talks over new site of mosque

MUSLIM leaders say they will consider another site for a mosque in Dudley in a bid to halt a costly legal battle with the council.

They want to have fresh talks with council chiefs, despite their plans for a controversial mosque scheme on land off Hall Street getting the go-ahead last week.

Dudley Muslim Association is locked in a legal battle with Dudley Council over the land earmarked for the mosque with 62ft minaret.

The association will not be able to build the place of worship unless they win a Court of Appeal hearing, which will rule on the council's bid to buy back the land. The dispute has gone on for seven years and is next in court in February.

Arriva director Dr Khurshid Ahmed said he wanted a meeting with council bosses and would consider an alternative site. He added: "I would like to see the council reflect on the whole issue and look at a number of options."

The land is owned by the association but the council won a High Court hearing to trigger a buy-back clause.

John Millar, Dudley's director of the urban environment, said: "The planning approval does not impact upon the council's legal obligations."

Black Country Day thanks

ORGANISERS who masterminded the first ever festival to celebrate the Black Country will be honoured at a civic reception in Dudley next week.

The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston has sent out invites to key players behind July's festival to join her in the Mayor's Parlour on Tuesday to thank them for their efforts.

Tens of thousands of people enjoyed the first Black Country Festival, marking official Black Country Day on July 14.

£9m OVERHAUL AT BUS STATION

BUS services across the borough are being revamped in a £9 million scheme including a new station in Dudley and better buses.

A deal to roll out a new generation of buses, with leather seats and charging points for mobile phones, alongside the revamp plans has been revealed by bosses at Centro.

Top-of-the-range free wi-fi equipped Sapphire buses will be rolled out on services around the West Midlands as part of Partnership Plus, a deal signed by the area's public transport co-ordinating body and operator Arriva Midlands.

They will also have capacity to take electronic smartcards, similar to London's Oyster card, which is a system being developed by Centro to modernise public transport in the Midlands.

Attractive

Bosses signed the deal which pledges 22 different initiatives between 2014 and 2016 with the aim of making bus travel more attractive, improving customer satisfaction and boosting passenger numbers.

The new buses will initially operate on the 110 route from Birmingham to Tamworth and number one and two services between Walsall and Cannock.

Arriva Midlands regional managing director, Alex Perry, said: "We are incredibly proud of the part we play in ensuring our customers have access to the very best transport service possible. We are delighted to enter into this agreement with Centro, which we believe will facilitate the continual enhancement of not only passenger experience, but also deliver patronage

By Andrew Turton

growth and an enriched service provision."

Finer points of the details on the investment scheme are still being worked on including what works will be carried out on Dudley bus station but bosses have revealed a number of schemes which form part of the contract.

A minimum of 20 new buses into the Arriva fleet, of which 18 will be Sapphire buses, riding out across the Midlands.

New shelters will be installed with enhanced passenger information throughout Wolverhampton city centre.

The bus operator will also be working with Centro to improve links to i54 on the Wolverhampton and south Staffordshire border.

Other features include enhanced CCTV on board buses, better training for drivers and the provision of real time passenger information at bus stops for Arriva services.

Centre vice chairman, Councillor Kath Hartley, said: "This brand new partnership agreement commits Centro and Arriva Midlands to working closely together. By doing so we can deliver many improvements for passengers that will help make bus travel more attractive."

Pop stars Little Mix light up Merry



The X Factor pop stars Little Mix join Bars & Melody and Sam and Mark switch on the festive lights at Merry Hill

LITTLE Mix were on hand to give Merry Hill Shopping Centre's Christmas lights switch on the X Factor.

Thousands turned out to see the nation's favourite girl band make sure the festivities went with a bang.

The Salute singers were joined by a range of other performers including Britain's Got Talent runners-up and rap duo Bars & Melody.

The event was hosted by TV presenters and Free Radio's Sam Nixon and Mark Rhodes, who hails from Darlaston, and the switch-on took place on the centre's 25th birthday.

Shoppers watched the traditional

lights come to life and were treated to Little Mix performing before they did the honours. The girls performed three of their biggest hits — Salute, Move and DNA — as well as an a cappella version of their track Hey, How Ya Doin'?, as well as covers of several other chart hits.

When they hit the plunger the shopping centre lit up to the sounds of a spectacular fireworks display.

Little Mix singer Perrie Edwards said: "We always love the crowds here because they just love to get involved. We just wanted to go out there and get everybody excited and ready for

Christmas with a bit of festive cheer."

This week, the centre was revealed to be the best shopping centre in the West Midlands in a poll, beating the Bullring.

Meanwhile, Dudley town centre's festive lights will be switched on this Saturday.

Dudley Mayor Councillor Margaret Aston and Father Christmas will start the countdown at 5pm. The Christmas tree in Stone Street Square will be the centre piece.

Festive lights will be switched on in Stourbridge on November 29 and Brierley Hill on December 6.

Hospital trust plan to slash 400 jobs

FOUR hundred jobs will be axed at Dudley's hospital trust during the next two years as it looks to save £14 million.

Bosses plan to reduce staff numbers through natural wastage such as retirement and a 'mutually agreed resignation scheme' which enables workers to leave in return for a set severance payment.

They have promised that compulsory redundancies would be a 'last resort'.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which employs 4,500 staff, is bidding to balance its books in the wake of Government funding cuts.

It will also restrict recruitment to vacant posts, although bosses say they will continue to recruit to 'essential frontline nursing posts on wards and in the community'.

Earlier this year, the trust revealed it was facing a £6.7 million deficit this financial year.

Chief executive Paula Clark said the hospital trust board's decision to reduce the posts was not taken lightly.

"Our priority is always to provide high quality patient care as well as protecting our workforce and, if we can get the vacancy controls right, then we can reduce redundancies," she said.

Death blamed on a cigarette

THE death of homeless man in the back of a burning car was probably the result of a discarded cigarette, a coroner ruled.

Senior Black Country Coroner Zafar Siddique said he was satisfied there was no foul play regarding the death of 54-year-old Mark Palmer.

He was found after firefighters were called to a blazing Peugeot 306 car on May 10 in a service road opposite Cradley Heath railway station, an inquest at Smethwick was told.

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Young father involved in fuel thefts

A FATHER-OF-TWO who was part of a racket stealing hundreds of pounds in fuel from petrol stations in the Black Country has narrowly escaped an immediate jail term.

Jabbar Ahmed's role was driver in two petrol thefts but he was linked by police to a total of 15 thefts by two cars used over the past two years.

Following one attempted theft

in Hagley Road in Stourbridge, he tried to escape officers by driving the wrong way down a one-way street before mounting a pavement.

The 21-year-old was arrested a week later, but denied any involvement in the thefts in police interviews. He later pleaded guilty in court to conspiracy to steal, handling stolen goods and dangerous driving.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, he received a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

Judge Nicholas Webb told Ahmed, of Thornhill Road in Quarry Bank: "You filled up not only the car, but sometimes cans which you put in the car."

"The dishonesty involved was considerable, it was deliberately planned, it was repeated."

Miss Laura Hobson, prosecuting, said the racket involved around 50 petrol thefts from stations.

Mr Jas Mann, defending, said Ahmed had got involved in the operation after he and his young family became homeless.

Mr Webb ordered Ahmed complete 180 hours unpaid work and be supervised for 12 months. He was also disqualified for two years.

Campaign is driven by fear of accidents

MORE than 94,000 fines have been handed out for bad driving across the West Midlands over the last year, with figures by a road safety charity revealing the most dangerous areas.

Cannock (WS11) and Halesowen (WS12) post-code areas saw the most dished out with 1,084 and 1,005 penalties dished out for offences of careless driving and speeding.

Third in the table were drivers in WV6 which covers Tettenhall, Pattingham and Perton where in all 983 tickets were handed out.

Drivers in DY8, which covers Wordsley, Wordsley and Amblecote areas of Stourbridge and DY10 in Harvington, Kidderminster made up the top five in the area with 977 and 966 fines given respectively.

In Sandwell the worst area was Tipton (DY4) with 585 fines, ahead of 554 for B63, Halesowen.

A total of 94,225 fines were handed out across the West Midlands during 2013, many of which are in areas that have a large number of country roads. The research was done by road safety charity Brake. In the West Midlands 156 people were killed and 1,642 seriously injured on the roads last year.

Borough backs cancer battle

HEALTH chiefs in Dudley are supporting a campaign to raise awareness of bladder and kidney cancer, which affects around 80 Dudley residents each year.

A national campaign was launched this month to raise awareness of the key symptoms, such as blood in urine.

Dr David Pitches, consultant in public health in Dudley, said: "You're not wasting anyone's time by getting your symptoms checked out."

In 2012, 55 people in Dudley died from bladder or kidney cancer.

Cheese and wine

PEOPLE in Dudley have been invited to a charity cheese and wine evening hosted by the Mayor.

Councillor Margaret Aston is inviting people to join her at Dudley Council House on Wednesday, November 26, from 7pm. Tickets £6.50 on (01384) 815211.

Council seeking views on protecting services

Rubbish mountain still stands



The huge pile of rubbish at Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd at Moor Street, Brierley Hill

A TOWERING pile of rubbish has not been touched in 10 months, despite a man being fined for failing to clear it up. The mountain of waste at the former Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd industrial yard in Moor Street, Brierley Hill, is 19ft high.

Company director Robert McNaughton served a term in jail earlier this year for failing to comply with a court order to clear the site. Despite his release and the launch of legal action by the Environment Agency, to seize assets from McNaughton to pay for

the clean-up, the waste has not been removed and neighbours fear it has become a permanent fixture.

While McNaughton was in prison, the landlords removed some bales in January.

Environment Agency spokeswoman Harriet Templar-Vasey said: "We're continuing to work on legal steps to require the director Robert McNaughton and/or the landlords to remove the waste. Once we have more certainty on this we will explain what is happening to local residents."

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Heathens to share track with Brummies

CRADLEY Heathens speedway club will return to the track next season but at a new home — in Birmingham.

Heathens were told they could no longer use Wolverhampton's Monmore Green for 2015, their temporary home for the last four years.

But club chairman Nigel Pearson has revealed a deal has been struck to share Birmingham's Perry Barr Stadium. Heathens have been unable to find a location in Dudley borough to build a new home stadium.

Mr Pearson has criticised Dudley Council for not doing enough to help but council leader Councillor David Sparks said they have carried out "extensive searches" without success.

The club have lost the use of Monmore Green which is now only available for Elite League Wolverhampton.

The Birmingham Brummies aim to bounce back at the same Perry Barr venue with the clubs racing on alternate Wednesdays from March to October.

Mr Pearson said: "This is wonderful news for both sets of supporters. We will need every single Heathens fan to come along to Perry Barr and support us to ensure the club survives."

Lighting up for festivities

MORE than £7,000 has been given to campaigners to allow a town to hold their first Christmas lights display in over two decades.

A display will be held in Roseville, Coseley, after councillors agreed to fund the purchase of new lights.

In total, £7,130 has been given by members of the Coseley East and Sedgley community forum.

The lights will go on display from lampposts along Castle Street.

Ward Councillor Melvyn Mottram said: "This is great news and will also bring the community together."

Gift fair at hall

HIMLEY Hall is to host a two-day Christmas gifts fair.

The event runs from 10.30am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday and will feature more than 50 exhibitors from all over the country. Parking is free. Entry is £2 for adults, £1.50 OAPs and free for under-16s.

Headteacher is suspended after arrest

A HEADTEACHER has been suspended after being arrested on suspicion of possessing indecent images.

Ross Workman, who works at Oldswinford CE Primary School, Stourbridge, was arrested as part of an inquiry into alleged online child sexual exploitation.

Officials from the Diocese of Worcester, which oversees the school, confirmed his arrest and said he was suspended immediately on November 3.

Detectives from West Midlands Police's

Online Child Sexual Exploitation team said that a 49-year-old teacher had been arrested in Warwickshire on suspicion of possession of indecent images.

He has been bailed with conditions while enquiries are on-going.

Computer equipment has been seized from the man's home as part of the investigation.

Letters were sent to parents with children at the school in Field Lane, Oldswinford, informing them of the investigation.

Director of Education for the Diocese of Worcester, Ann Mundy, said: "We are aware that Mr Workman has been arrested as part of a police investigation and as a result has been suspended from his role as headteacher of Oldswinford CE Primary. We always take the safeguarding of pupils in our schools very seriously and are working with the school during this difficult period."

Chairman of governors, Stan Williams, added: "We have been advised by police

that at this stage of the inquiry there is no evidence of any inappropriate contact between the member of staff and pupils at the school."

Police confirmed that detectives are also contacting schools where the suspect has previously been employed to inform them of the investigation.

Dudley Councillor Tim Crumpton, in charge of children's services, said: "We are working closely with the school and its governing body."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Victorian pub to highlight heritage

A PUB in Lower Gornal has closed temporarily while a major revamp takes place.

The Old Bull's Head in Redhall Road is due to open in time for Christmas after a six-figure refurbishment emphasising its Victorian heritage.

Part of the Penns-based Black Country Ales chain, the pub is due to open again on December 4 to unveil its new look. BCA managing director Angus McMeekin said the pub, which has a brewery, would offer more guest ales as well as its own beers.

Match girl dance is brought to theatre

A TEARJERKING dance event will be held at Birmingham's Patrick Centre, within Birmingham Hippodrome, with a version of Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Match Girl from November 27 to 29.

Choreographer Arthur Pita's production, featuring original live music by Frank Moon, will be staged at 1.30 and 7pm on the Thursday and Friday, and 3pm on the Saturday. It is 70 minutes long.

See www.danceexchange.org.uk for more details.

MP's concern at further police cuts

FURTHER cuts to police in the Black Country have sparked concerns from Dudley North MP Ian Austin. He said that residents will be concerned a second wave of £100 million cuts will hit front line policing, after West Midlands Chief Constable Chris Sims and Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said they expected hundreds of job losses after the General Election.

Festive fair in aid of church funds

A CHRISTMAS fair will take place in Upper Gornal later this month.

The event will be at St Peter's Church, in Kent Street, from 10.30am to 2.30pm on Saturday, November 29.

Stalls will be selling items such as books and cakes. There will also be a tombola. Money raised will go to the church.

Beowulf's beers

A STOURBRIDGE pub has a week-long mini beer festival with brews from Brownhills brewery Beowulf. Folded Cross and Finn's Hall Porter will be among ales at Chequers Inn, Monday to Sunday.

Village celebrate saving library from closure threat

CELEBRATIONS have taken place to mark the start of a new partnership which has saved a village library from closure.

Hagley Parish Council is stepping in to take over Hagley Library's running and management costs while Worcestershire County Council continue to provide the service with the help of volunteers.

It is hoped Hagley Library would move to a proposed 'community hub' in the village at a later date.

There had been fears the village library could close and be replaced with a mobile service as part of county council plans to shave £1.9million of budgets over the next three years.

Chairman of Hagley Parish Council Steve Colella, who has described the library as 'an essential' service, said: "When I think back to earlier this year when it was announced that the austerity cuts at Worcestershire County Council could result in the closure of the library and the public reaction to that news, I knew that it was essential that the future of the library services was secured."

"Young and old use the service and I hope that will continue to grow," added Councillor Colella.

The review had looked at different options including shutting the library, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012, and replacing it with a mobile service.

Cuts have already been made at Kidderminster Library. People were invited to the

library on Saturday to find out more about the partnership made up of Hagley Parish Council, Hagley Library and Worcestershire County Council.

"A library, especially in Hagley is an integral part of the community, being central to the communities amenities and services. It's amazing that in these modern times the demand for printed material is still immense. People can drop in and read the daily paper, magazines, use the libraries IT services and order books from the county's vast stock of books."

"Young and old use the service and I hope that will continue to grow," added Councillor Colella.

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Grande city gig for pop star

AMERICAN pop star Ariana Grande, who found fame on children's TV show Victorious, is coming to Birmingham as part of her first UK tour next year.

She will be in concert at Birmingham city centre venue the Barclaycard Arena on June 9. Her album My Everything has gone to number one in the charts in more than 80 countries. Tickets start at £32.50 plus fees and go on sale tomorrow (Friday).



Posters of iconic films at auction

ORIGINAL posters promoting iconic films will be going under the hammer in Dudley.

The auction at Aston's Auctioneers on Tower Street will include posters for 1985 science-fiction classic Back to the Future and classic Clint Eastwood western The Good, The Bad and the Ugly.

Managing director and auctioneer Chris Aston said: "The Back to the Future one is an interesting poster. People love that film – it is a proper cult classic, so that could really do well."

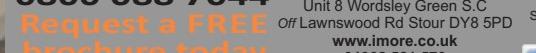
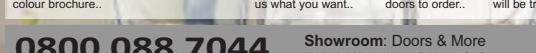
"We also have a 'Le Mans', one which would be a treat for any Steve McQueen fan. The artwork is really nice so that it would also be good for anyone into racing or someone who just wants to make their garage look a bit smarter."

More than 100 posters have already been put forward for the sale on December 11. They are all originals and would have been in cinema foyers to advertise the movies. Mr Aston added: "Even the cheaper ones can be a good investment for the future."

For more information or to submit a poster for sale call Aston's on (01384) 931001.

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A READER says he has already been overwhelmed by Christmas spirit. He rushed out and bought his wife a new coal shovel, even though her battered and splintered old shovel would probably last until the January sales. Sir, she does not deserve you.

MORE green cobblers. A reader reports seeing this on the rear of a builders' van: "To reduce our carbon footprint this vehicle is limited to 70 mph." Which is, of course, the maximum national speed limit.

A READER, aware of my North Country roots, suggests the latest Volkswagen UP, an electric car which costs virtually nothing to run, should appeal to Yorkshire folk. He adds: "Its full name is E-UP. See? It even speaks Yorkshire."

NO-ONE denies that landing a European spacecraft on a comet far, far away is a brilliant technical achievement. However, the Rosetta project has gobbed up more than £1,000 million of our money and we have no choice in such matters. We EU taxpayers are committed by various Euro-treaties to spend colossal amounts of money on space research. Given a democratic choice, how many of us would have voted to send a spaceship to a comet rather than spending the money on something more pressing? Today our EU bosses may be thrilled to have put a probe on Comet 67P. But if we had invested that £1,000 million in medical research we might have found a cure for cancer.

THEY'RE still grumbling up in Scotland and the effigy of Alex Salmond at the Lewes bonfire did not improve Anglo-Scottish relations. A contributor to a Scottish newspaper's website tells the tale of a reporter in Dundee who came upon a terrible incident.

A pit-bull terrier was attacking a small boy in the street when a man leaped forward and throttled the beast with his bare hands. The reporter pulled out her mobile phone, contacted her office and said: "I've got a great story. Use the headline: Dundee Hero Saves Child by Killing Vicious Dog. The bloodstained hero interrupted her: "Actually, I'm not local," he explained. "I'm from Wolverhampton."

The reporter snarled into her mobile: "Change headline to Englishman Kills Family Pet."

I MAY be a little out of touch with cinema etiquette. Since when has sitting in an auditorium among strangers and stuffing your face with a big, greasy, smelly hot dog been acceptable behaviour?

ONE of Auntie Beeb's finest was trying to explain how a piffling £1.1 billion fine, imposed by the Financial Conduct Authority on five banks (which will end up being paid by shareholders and customers) is any sort of punishment for dodgy business practices. He solemnly stressed the importance of "reputational damage" to the banks. Now, what reputation would that be?

I REFERRED recently to man landing on the moon in 1969. A conspiracy-minded reader says a) men never went to the moon and b) the proof is on YouTube. In fact a) yes, they did and b) no it isn't. But the more you try to change a conspiracy theorist's mind, the more they think they're on to something. As Elvis was telling me only the other day,

THE highlight of the Downton Abbey Christmas Special? Ladies Edith and Mary fight to the death for the love of Branson before the action shifts to Pentonville Prison for the double-hanging of Mr and Mrs Bates. You read it here first.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Obesity is costing region £114m

OBESITY in the West Midlands is at a 'tipping point' as the cost to the public purse in the Black Country and Staffordshire was put at almost £115 million a year.

A summit of health professionals, businesses and others was held to try to tackle the crisis that sees more than two thirds of adults in Wolverhampton alone classed as overweight or obese.

The estimated annual 'cost of inactivity' in Dudley is put at £24.7m and at £25.7m in Sandwell. In Wolverhampton it is £22.5m and in Walsall £21.9m.

The costs are added up for treating obese and overweight people.

Exercise promoter UK Active says in a report that the West Midlands has the highest per cent of adults who are physically inactive.

Speaking at the Obesity Summit held at Wolverhampton Racecourse, Councillor Sandra Samuels, the city's cabinet member for health, said: "It's particularly worrying that so many of our young people are now becoming obese."

"The situation is nearly at a tipping point right now but it is not too late to get something done. If we work together in moving forward then it is not impossible to change this situation."

Bilston councillor Stephen Simkins, who has taken on a weight loss challenge to go from 23st 3lb to around 16 stone, said: "There are two reasons why tackling obesity is so important. One is the financial burden it puts on taxpayers and the other is that people need a better quality of life."

Dealer jailed after car chase in town centre

AN ILLEGAL immigrant has been jailed after a high speed chase through Dudley town centre after police caught him dealing heroin and crack cocaine.

Sathnam Singh forced other motorists to swerve out of his way as he drove through two red lights during the afternoon incident.

After his arrest, he was released on bail, but was caught dealing drugs again in Dudley just two weeks later.

The 41-year-old, from Pakistan, living in Southall, London, was jailed for four years at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Miss Lynette McClement, prosecuting, said police were alerted to Singh when they saw a known drug user getting out of his car in Dudley on March 27 at about 4pm.

The police pulled their vehicle in front of Singh's car but he drove onto the footpath and headed onto Wellington Street.

Officers turned their siren on but Singh accelerated away, overtaking vehicles and going through red traffic lights at two junctions.

Singh eventually stopped in Parsons Street where he was found with £200 worth of heroin and crack cocaine, plus £350 in cash.

He was bailed for a court hearing, but two weeks later – on April 5 – was caught again in Grange Road Park, Dudley, with £120 worth of crack cocaine and heroin.

Singh pleaded guilty to four charges of possession.

"The driving was dreadful, at 4pm in the middle of Dudley, at a time when school children are about.

"Other road users swerved and braked to avoid colliding. These matters have to be met by a custodial sentence of some significance."

He told Singh: "You will appreciate the risks you were taking here. You were street dealing in class A drugs, it is vile and it brings about misery and despair."

Judge John Edwards sentenced Singh to four and half years in prison and disqualified him from driving for two years.

He told Singh: "You will appreciate the risks you were taking here. You were street dealing in class A drugs, it is vile and it brings about misery and despair."

"The driving was dreadful, at 4pm in the middle of Dudley, at a time when school children are about.

"Other road users swerved and braked to avoid colliding. These matters have to be met by a custodial sentence of some significance."

The regional competition, run by the Big Lottery Fund will see each group showcase its work before viewers vote to choose the winners.

Murray Hall Community Trust, at Sedgley Road West, Tipton, would use the money to fund its Dream Room community hub. Another group in the running is Family Action based in Wednesbury. The People's Millions will be screened from Monday to Wednesday on ITV Central.

A GROUP which helps ill Black Country youngsters and their families, has been shortlisted for a TV competition that could see it win £50,000.

The regional competition, run by the Big Lottery Fund will see each group showcase its work before viewers vote to choose the winners.

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IT is almost 20 years since he lifted boxing's heavyweight world crown but Frank Bruno is still a knockout. He had a room full of sports fans on their feet and chanting his name during a visit that helped raise more than £2,000 for Mary Stevens' Hospice during a charity night at The Kingfisher Hotel and Club in Wall Heath.

The 53-year-old recalled the night of September 2 1995 when he outpointed Oliver McCall over 12 rounds to win the WBC title.

"It was the moment that the dream I had

had as an eight year old came true. You do not forget moments like that," he said.

Mental illness has dogged the former world champ since he quit the ring. He added: "It is 20 years since I was last in the ring and I am still ducking and diving. I have my good days and my bad days. It is not pleasant having the police come round and losing it after your marriage breaks up.

"But you have to be positive, grit your teeth, dust yourself down and get on with it because it is a tough old world out there."

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"But you have to be positive, grit your teeth, dust yourself down and get on with it because it is a tough old world out there."

Groping cab driver admits sex assault

A TAXI driver groped a 20-year-old woman he was driving home to Brierley Hill following a night out, a court heard.

Karnail Virk picked up his victim in the early hours of the morning and asked her to sit in the front of his cab and hold his sat nav, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. But during the journey from Walsall to Brierley Hill, the 41-year-old repeatedly tried to make physical contact.

Mr Howard Seale, prosecuting, said Virk stroked her thigh five times and told her that he wanted to take her to dinner. As she paid her fare he hugged her, tried to kiss her and groped her despite her protests. Breaking free from Virk's grip, the victim fled into her house and called police.

Ms Lynette McClement, defending, said: "He has now lost his livelihood and works for a pizza company.

"He is clearly someone who misjudges social situations."

Virk, of Bescot Crescent, Walsall, admitted sexual assault. He was given a three-year community order with supervision, ordered to complete a rehabilitation programme and placed on the sex offenders' register for five years.

Jobs rescued by Vodafone

AN EMPTY shop in Stourbridge, which was a Phones4U store, has been taken over by Vodafone.

The move saved five jobs with the staff at the shop being a mix of former Phones4U employees and newly hired staff.

The opening forms part of Vodafone's plans to invest £1 billion in 2014.

Stourbridge MP Margot James said: "We have seen lots of new business start up in Stourbridge and it is particularly good when we get a new retailer in the town, especially one as big as Vodafone."

Festive table sale

STOURBRIDGE Village Hall, near Stourbridge, hosts a 'Not Long Now' Christmas Table Top Sale with some stalls in aid of local charities.

The event is being held at the Bridgnorth Road venue on Saturday, December 6, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.



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Remembrance service
at Stourbridge Crematorium

Sunday 7 December 2014, 11am

This service is particularly appropriate where the funeral of a relative or friend has taken place at the crematorium, however, everyone is welcome.

Due to high demand, admission is by ticket only. Tickets are available by calling 01384 813985 or visiting the crematorium office from Tuesday 19 November after 10.30am.

At the end of each service staff will be available to show visitors around and answer any questions about the crematorium.

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council



History talks on hall, glass and war

THE glass industry and Himley Hall are among subjects of this month's local history talks.

Dudley Round will explore glass production in Stourbridge with a talk at Halesowen Library on Wednesday.

On the same day Alan Peace will bring to life the stories behind Himley Hall at Dudley Library. The final talk of the month will look at the role of the Black Country in the First World War by Michael Pearson at Stourbridge Library on Friday, November 28.

All talks at 2.30pm. Tickets £3 with refreshments.

Council seeks a tea room partner

ENTREPRENEURS are being offered the chance to take over tea rooms at a Stourbridge park.

Work which will transform a room at Mary Stevens Park will start in spring. People with catering experience are invited to apply for the lease. The tearooms will open as part of a £2.6 million revamp of the site paid for by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Applications must be submitted by December 5, visit www.dudley.gov.uk/business

Laughter as yoga gets the giggles

PEOPLE can take part in laughter yoga sessions near Stourbridge.

Maggie Thompson is leading sessions which use a combination of deep breathing exercises and laughter.

The next session will be held on December 8 from 7pm to 8pm at Wordsley Community Centre.

For details, call Maggie on 07565 218567 or visit www.merriemaggie.co.uk

Traffic warning as pipes work begins

A £1 million scheme to repair and replace ageing water pipes in a village near Stourbridge is under way as officials aim to stop leaks.

Motorists are being advised of potential disruption by utilities company Severn Trent Water as the project gets under way around Belfroughton and continues until May.

Children's service

A CHURCH service for children will take place in Lower Gornal on Saturday.

The Black Country Mission is holding the service at The Straits Community Church, in The Straits, at 7pm. All are welcome.

Toy appeal bringing festive joy to families

SHOPPERS and staff at two Sainsbury's stores are being urged to donate toys to help families this Christmas.

Dudley Council's Family and Adolescent Support Team has joined forces with Sainsbury's Amblecote and Merry Hill stores to run the annual appeal.

Last year generous customers and staff donated more than 100 toys and gifts towards a Christmas party for the children and families supported by FAST. This year organisers are aiming to top that and help more families.

The family and adolescent support team is currently working with 225 families and 410 children up to the age of 16.

FAST works with children in need, families with adolescents and helps mums and dads with their parenting skills.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Thanks to the generosity of shoppers and the kind efforts of the staff at Sainsbury's, we were able to make sure children and young people had gifts and a Christmas party that so many others of us take for granted. I hope we are able to do the same again this year."

Bette is back after 35 years

SINGER, movie actress and Las Vegas show star Bette Midler is coming to Birmingham next year as part of her first UK tour in 35 years.

Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday) for multiple Grammy award winner's show at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham (the new name for the NIA) on July 9. Prices start at £50.

The singer, whose hits include Wind Beneath My Wings and From A Distance, has a new album out called It's The Girls! which pays tribute to girl groups from the 1930s to '90s.

Tree will light up

A FUNDRAISING tradition spanning 20 years is again allowing people to remember loved in a Black Country town. The Tipton Tree of Light has been planted outside St Paul's Church in Owen Street, and people are being urged to sponsor the bulbs. Call 01902 883858.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.'

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding



Quest centre didn't make an operating profit

MERRY Hill shopping centre bosses have spoken of their sadness at the planned closure of the Quest entertainment centre – just two years after it opened at the Brierley Hill mall.

Paragon Entertainment has announced the loss-making venture will shut in six months.

Mike Butterworth, chief operating officer of Merry Hill owner Intu, said: "We have seen Paragon Entertainment's statement about Quest serving notice on its space at intu Merry Hill. We are sorry it's closing but respect the decision."

"We wish everyone affected all the very best for the future."

The entertainment zone, which opened in November 2012, saw the atrium at one of the centre's main entrances converted into an indoor 14-metre high wire area. But the £1.3 million children's attraction failed over the last two years to deliver the huge number of visitors that its owner had hoped for.

Paragon Entertainment, which also created attractions such as the Wallace and Gromit ride at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and the Olympic Museum in Switzerland, had initially operated an outdoor ice rink as

well. The first two months saw 15,000 people using Quest with the ice rink proving a hit but it failed to generate an operating profit, despite new attractions – including a Nerf blaster combat zone in a giant tented area and an indoor mini golf course and soft play area in the former Harry Ramsden's restaurant.

Paragon had hoped to build up a chain of Quests. Now its chief executive Mark Pyrah has announced that the company is to pull the plug in six months' time, which will affect two full-time staff supported by part-timers.

Merry Hill is declared top of the West Midlands malls

MERRY Hill shopping centre has toasted its 25th birthday with being named the best retail destination in the region.

Back in 1989 the vision of Black Country brothers Roy and Don Richardson became a reality with the completion of the shopping centre at Brierley Hill on the site of the closed Round Oak Steelworks.

The brothers spent £1 billion on the giant shopping mall and surrounding retail parks, which was also served by a monorail.

The centre has since attracted big name retailers such as Marks & Spencer, Debenhams, Sainsbury's and Asda, as well as achieving many notable firsts such as the country's first drive-thru McDonalds.

On its quarter of a century anniversary, the centre proved its strength, by pipping it's big West Midlands rival the Bullring to be ranked the best shopping centre in the West Midlands, in the report by Trevor Wood Associates.

Castle Creatures, which is due to open next Easter, will tell the story of the Earl of Dudley's family, explain the history of the castle and house a series of animal exhibits.

Bosses said it will transform the zoo's interpretation centre which has not been updated since it was built 20 years ago.

Dudley Zoo Group chief executive Peter Sudcock said: "Staff have worked alongside designers to create an authentic experience for visitors."

"The lay-out includes a unique interactive screen whereby visitors can create their own animals from a gene pool, plus a huge board game telling the story of thriving animals and those facing extinction in the modern world."

Mr Prior added: "We are evaluating lots of options for new leisure attractions but it is too early for us to unveil anything yet."

Those who take part will be asked to dress up as Santa and collect sponsorship for Santa Day on Friday, December 5.

"All the money raised will go to the Make our Patients Smile Appeal which helps to improve our patients experience while they are being treated by

Dress up as Santa for hospital charity

Maternity ward clerk Emma Hancock gets set for a day in her Santa suit with fundraising manager Karen Phillips

A CHARITY based at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley is challenging people to combine festive fun with fundraising to help raise money for a good cause.

The fundraising campaign by Dudley Group NHS Charity hopes to raise money for the maternity department at the hospital.

Karen Phillips, Fundraising Manager, says: "Last year numerous members of hospital staff dressed up as Santa and it proved so popular that this year we are hoping to encourage local businesses and community groups to take part."

Register

"All the money raised will go to the Make our Patients Smile Appeal which helps to improve our patients experience while they are being treated by us. It costs just £10 per adult to register," she added.

"You will then receive your free Santa suit and a fundraising pack."

"There is no minimum sponsorship just raise what you can"

More information about the campaign can be found on Twitter on the #DudleySantas hashtag or by calling Karen on 01384 456111 ext 4449. To find out more see dudleygroup.nhs.uk/our-charity/upcoming-events-and-campaigns

ADVERTISEMENT**Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!**

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Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

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IN MY VIEW



with Mark Andrews

TWENTY-FIVE years ago this month, the final phase of the Merry Hill centre opened, an occasion which has surely transformed the shopping habits of the West Midlands in a way that could never have been envisaged at the outset.

Almost instantly, Marks & Spencer closed its branches in both Dudley and West Bromwich, lured by the free rates and easy parking of the new out-of-town centre.

Initial reports suggested a 70 per cent fall in the number of people shopping in Dudley town centre, and slowly, but surely, it has also affected town and city centres further afield.

A quarter of a century on, its legacy is still a matter for debate.

Some people love the warm, all-weather malls, others hate the devastating impact it has had on town centres which have been there for hundreds of years.

The majority, though, I suspect, do not feel that strongly one way or the other. They simply take the view that if that is where Marks & Spencer, British Home Stores or Sainsbury's is, that's where they will go.

According to Dudley Council leader, Councillor David Sparks, "Merry Hill enabled Dudley to look Birmingham in the eye," and on that point I really have to disagree.

Dudley cannot, and never has been able to look Birmingham in the eye, certainly not within living memory, and realistically, it is not going to any time soon.

However, Merry Hill is probably the reason why Dudley can no longer look Wolverhampton or Walsall in the eye, either.

And for that I will always be very sad.



WEST Midland clergyman the Rev Alan Fraser, who drives a petrol-electric hybrid vehicle which is exempt from road tax, observes that he still has to go on to the DVLA website to not pay the road tax he does not owe.

He adds: "There is a range of (non) payment options, although I apparently will be charged £2.50 if I decide to not pay by credit card."

"So, if I have understood this, I am to not pay for a tax disc that I now won't get sent."

And if he does not comply, presumably he will be sent a final demand to not pay his road tax.



AYLI visits Aynuk in hospital, and is concerned with his friend's state of despondency about his condition.

"Chayer up, aer kid, yo' do' cum 'ere to die," says Ayl.

Aynuk replies: "Yo' ay' rung, aer kid, I day cum in 'ere to die. I cum in six wikk ago."



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An artist's impression of the planned mosque on land of Hall Street including 52ft high dome and 62ft minaret — the existing mosque on Castle Hill is now too small

The saga of town's mosque heats up

Muslim community leaders have won permission but will their mosque be built? **PETER MADELEY** reports

IT is a controversial long-running project that has provoked heated debate and divided communities.

Now, after a seven-year stand-off, planning chiefs at Dudley Council have given Dudley Muslim Association the green light to develop land off Hall Street to build a large mosque just outside Dudley town centre.

In the wake of the planning committee voting in favour of the scheme, a call has been made to also re-build community relationships in the town.

Dr Khurshid Ahmed, director at Dudley Muslim Association, which put forward the plans, said it was now time to heal wounds that had opened up in the town as a result of the mosque debate.

Benefit

He said: "Sadly relationships within the town have been messed up and it is about time we all started to rebuild."

The development will see a 52ft-high mosque with a 62ft minaret and also includes a 120-space two-storey car park, a sports centre, an enterprise and education centre and a community centre.

The Dudley Muslim Association says the project will be a boost for the whole town with non-Muslims able to benefit from the new education and sports facilities too.

But the decision to give the proposal the green light has resulted in an angry response from large sections of the community, with concerns raised over the lack of parking, increased traffic congestion and the design of the buildings.

One of those who objected was Archie Pugh, aged 80, from Dudley. He said the design of the mosque would not fit in with the town's architecture and the increased traffic would cause gridlock around the site.

"The application did not comply with guidelines that stipulate the need for a locally sensitive design," he said. "In my view the whole thing looks grotesque.



The site earmarked for the new mosque and community centre complex in Dudley

They are saying up to 600 people could attend the mosque at any one time which to me means the resulting traffic congestion will be catastrophic.

"It is absolutely disgraceful that it has passed."

Councillor Keiran Casey, vice-chairman of Dudley Council's Development Control Committee, opposed the plans. He said: "This has been very badly handled from the start. The vast majority of people have no problem with any community having a place of worship. My issue is that the site has the potential to set up the town. It is crying out for redevelopment that could support people in terms of industry and employment."

Others have questioned whether the facilities at the centre will be available for all members of the community.

Dozens of protesters were locked out of last week's meeting as all spaces in the public gallery were filled. Darren

Ward, aged 43, from Tividale, was one of the many who were left out in the rain. He said: "I got here at 5pm and couldn't even get inside. This is a bad decision for the town."

Many in the Muslim community say the town has been crying out for a new place of worship to replace the cramped Dudley Central Mosque in Castle Hill.

Shakeel Ahmed, aged 40, from Kates Hill, said: "The town's Muslim community has grown a lot in the last 20 years and the mosque in Castle Hill is nowhere near big enough. People have a right to a place of worship."

Proposals for a new mosque in the town were first put forward in 2007. On that occasion the bid was thrown out because the authority wanted to preserve the land for development that could boost employment.

But an updated version of the scheme returned to the table in September. A

total of 370 letters of support and a petition for the application with 1,718 signatures were sent to the council, while 885 letters were sent in opposing the project.

Councillor Qadar Zada, chairman of the development control committee, said he was satisfied the facilities would benefit the whole community.

However, the plans for the land, which used to be the Nuttall factory and warehouse, could still be halted by a High Court hearing early next year over whether the land should revert to council ownership.

A judge previously ruled the council could reclaim the land but the association has lodged an appeal over the decision.

Building work is on hold as leaders urge council bosses to negotiate a conclusion in the wake of plans being given the go-ahead.

Planning committee members voted five to three in favour of the proposals. But Dudley Council is bidding to buy back the land through the High Court — a move Dudley Muslim Association is appealing against.

Dudley Muslim Association director Dr Khurshid Ahmed said he was 'delighted' the planning application had finally been approved but stressed the High Court appeal needed now be resolved. He is now urging council bosses to 'reflect' and hold talks.

Dr Ahmed said building work would be on hold until the resolution of the High Court case due early next year.

"We hope that the council will now reflect on its position in light of the planning committee's decision and try to reach an amicable agreement so that we can put this whole saga to bed," he said.

"While the court case is happening, no work can take place. We would like to be able to negotiate. The ball is in their court."

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council's opposition Conservative group, said the authority was wrong to give Dudley Muslim Association permission to build on land 'they technically do not own'.

He said: "Whatever the rights and wrongs over the mosque issue it seems bizarre the council hadn't argued for the legal action to be concluded prior to this coming before planning. The council could be left with a huge legal bill to foot because of this."

WEEK IN POLITICS



with Daniel Wainwright

WE need to talk about Europe. I say that knowing full well that for people who follow politics at the moment it seems as though we talk about little else.

But the farcical scenes in the Commons over the European Arrest Warrant show how toxic it is proving to be to the Tories.

Not that we need much more proof of that, of course. The by-election won by a Tory MP-turned-UKIPper and coupled with the likelihood of a repeat in Rochester should have made it abundantly clear by now.

MPs turned up to vote thinking they were going to get a say on the European Arrest Warrant itself. Instead the motion put before them was for just 11 of 35 measures that the coalition government wanted to opt into and the warrant was not one.

The Conservatives would not have wanted to face another rebellion by Eurosceptic backbenchers. But, after all these years it should have been abundantly clear to the whips that anything with the word 'Europe' in it is not going to go down well with the likes of Stone's Sir Bill Cash or Aldridge-Brownhills MP Sir Richard Shepherd.

The latter, retiring at the election, made his feelings abundantly clear: "At the heart of this is a misconception about what this House represents... my over long time in this House of Commons has led me to understand the growth of executive arrogance is unsupportable."

Even reading the words one can hear the weariness in his voice. Sir Richard has been an MP since 1979. He's been rebelling on Europe since Maastricht.

Labour's shadow Europe minister is Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden. He pointed out that there was actually more than enough support from the majority of the Tories, Liberal Democrats and Labour to vote the warrant through. Now Labour has decided to debate and vote on it as part of an Opposition Day on the eve of the Rochester by-election.

As far as Mr McFadden and Labour are concerned, as well as the Tories in favour of it, it is a means by which this country has managed to deport 1,000 foreign criminals in a single year and successfully in the successful return of people wanted by our own authorities. One of those was Hussain Osman, part of a botched attempt to bomb London in 2005. It also brought back Jeremy Forrest, a teacher who fled to France with a pupil.

The arguments against include concerns over the ability of other EU member states to demand the extradition of British citizens without sufficient evidence.

There are various legal experts, civil liberties groups and others now turning it into a political football. Maybe we should have been worried about it, maybe not. But if they won't even debate it, the Government can't blame people for drawing their own conclusions.

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One of the earliest photographs of the Netherton group, formed 90 years ago



Trefoil Guide Margaret Jackson, 82, shares her memories



60 years ago — The Netherton group pictured in the 1950s



A photograph from the Netherton group's early days



Netherton Brownies past and present get together for the 90th anniversary reunion party

Fond memories for Brownies and Guides

CAMPING, crafts and cooking are among the fun activities celebrated by a Guides and Brownies group as members past and present mark its 90th anniversary.

Grandmothers, mothers and daughters were among those who gathered at a party in honour of the 1st Netherton Guides and Brownies, which has a long tradition of family membership.

The pack was registered in 1924 although the current leaders say that it was probably running for some time before official records were set up by the organisation.

For some 60 years it had close links with St Andrew's Church and met in a building known as Church House, in Hill Street. Meetings were held on Thursday evenings until the 1980s when the sessions relocated the group's current home in the scouts' hut off Cradley Road.

Brown Owl and Guide Captain Rachel Piper says: "We were invited by the 1st Netherton Scouts to join them

MEMORY LANE

By Deborah Hardiman

in their premises. We held the party and reunion because we wanted to do something to celebrate the brownies being here continuously for 90 years. That is a great achievement and milestone.

"We sent out invitations to past and present members of the guides and brownies and the leaders. Lots of people who were members down the years came to join us, which has been wonderful. Some of them are well into their 80s but they wouldn't have missed it for the world."

"They were reminiscing and telling stories about their camping trips. It was nice for them to remember and it was nice for them to meet the brownies who are with us now."

There are currently 24 brownies who meet on Wednesdays and a group of 20 girl guides.

Activities at the reunion included displaying boards of memorabilia, including badges, blankets and old photo-

graphs of outdoor adventures, parades and meetings held over the decades.

Among the gems is a picture of the group camping at Astley Burf, Stourport, in 1925. Some are taken in the 1930s featuring the girls meeting the Queen's uncle the Duke of Windsor, who was King Edward VIII for just under a year before he abdicated the throne to marry Wallis Simpson.

Also on display were photographs from the 1950s when former Guide Leader Olywyn Grainger was in charge. She ran the unit until 2000 when Mrs Piper, aged 43, took over the reins. Mrs Grainger, now 73, was among the guests at the celebration.

Former members recalled taking part in the traditional challenges, such as outdoor camping and singing 'Magic Coins'. "The previous members used to sing it," said Mrs Piper. "They still all remember the words."

"Brownies has always been a popular activity for young girls and even today parents still put their children's names down on our list from as young as aged two to secure a place in the group."



Margaret Barford with daughters Rachel and Angela



A picture of Netherton Brownies in the 1980s from the group's 90th year anniversary exhibition

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Teacher of the year Kerry goes to top of her class



Award winner – assistant headteacher Kerry Poole, aged 32 from Stourbridge, has been named Teacher of the Year

A TEACHER from Stourbridge has been voted the best in Britain.

Kerry Poole, who teaches religious education at Wolverley CE Secondary School, won the Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School title in the national Pearson Teaching Awards. She beat more than 20,000 nominees to scoop the accolade.

Miss Poole, aged 32, was described by the judges as ‘a truly exceptional teacher whose endless enthusiasm, dedication, commitment and energy inspire students and colleagues alike’.

The assistant headteacher at Wolverley was nominated by deputy head Rebecca Hawthorne.

She was amazed that she had been chosen for the award, adding: “I couldn’t believe it, because we have so many brilliant teachers here at Wolverley.”

“I have done a lot to do with the Church of England side of the school, and I think that is important. I think it was because we try to give youngsters a good foundation and a full holistic experience to prepare them for life, it is not just about lessons and grades.”

Miss Poole, who started at Wolver-

ley as a trainee 10 years ago, said she loved teaching RE as it helped children ask questions about their place in the world. Wolverley head Bryn Thomas said: “Our motto is ‘Ambition Unlimited’, so being able to inspire our students to aim higher than they would have done before coming to the school is something that is extremely important to us. Kerry has been an inspiration to many of our students.”

Miss Poole was reunited with her inspirational English teacher, Caroline Hoddinott, now headteacher at Haybridge High School, at a surprise celebration.

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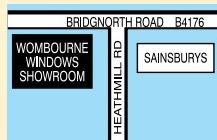
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Toy appeal is judged to have the X Factor



Simon Cowell lookalike Andy Monk with Matt Cook as Santa and Brett Harris, owner of Blaze Hairdressing

A CHRISTMAS fundraising appeal has been launched and it has been judged to have the X Factor by Simon Cowell look-a-like Andy Monk.

The copycat Cowell gave a resounding 'yes' to Dudley Council for Voluntary Service's Operation Santa scheme which provides toys to children living in poverty in the borough.

Last year Brett Harris, owner of Blaze Hairdressers in Kingswinford, collected and donated more than 2,000 toys, games and selection boxes towards the appeal.

Andy said: "Brett has been a fantastic supporter of the Operation Santa appeal for several years and each year he surpasses himself with both the number and quality of the toys and games he collects and donates."

"They make a huge difference to thousands of underprivileged kids in Dudley borough."

The appeal has now run for more than 20 years and in 2013 a record-breaking 5430 children received a gift.

To offer a donation call (01384) 573381.

Praise for attempt to take gun off farmer

A FARMER shot himself when fears of losing his livelihood drove him to depression, an inquest heard.

David Fletcher, 59, told a neighbour 'I need help' before taking his own life with a double barrelled shotgun at his farmhouse near Stourbridge.

It is believed Mr Fletcher had financial worries and was concerned about the threat of TB among his cattle at Heron Gate Farm in Enville.

Tests after his death showed that his livestock were clear of the disease.

His neighbour Mark Henderson was praised by West Mercia Police and the coroner for his bravery when attempting to take the gun from the farmer. Mr Henderson tried to get the gun off Mr Fletcher after he fired it at his car.

He told the inquest that when he came across Mr Fletcher when his truck was blocking a lane early on July 10.

He asked if he was alright and Mr Fletcher replied 'no, I need help' before reaching for his 12 bore shotgun and firing at the back of Mr Henderson's car. Mr Henderson got out of the car and approached Mr Fletcher who shot again, toward nearby

trees. Mr Fletcher then attempted to take his own life, but the gun was not loaded.

The inquest heard Mr Fletcher walked into his house, saying: "There isn't going to be any farm."

Another neighbour, Chris Nott, arrived to help but then both men heard a gunshot from inside the house.

Firearms officers from West Mercia Police found Mr Fletcher dead with a gunshot wound to his head.

The inquest, which recorded a verdict of suicide, was told Mr Fletcher had been suffering from depression.

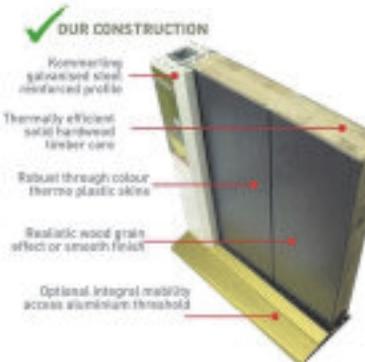
Police told the hearing that Mr Fletcher had his firearms licence revoked in 1999 and had not registered the double barrel shotgun.

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Dancing Grannies step up for Children In Need



The Fizzogs, with Pudsey Bear, who had been raising money for Children in Need in Market Street, Stourbridge

IT'S not every day you see three grannies and Pudsey bear dancing in the street.

This was the spectacle greeting Stourbridge shoppers as the Fizzogs teamed up with local band Empty Can to get people to donate to Children In Need.

The group, made up of Deb Nicholls, Sue Hawkins, Emma Rollason and Jackie Fellows, shot to fame earlier this year when their dance routine at the Stourbridge Festival went viral.

Deb, from Wollaston, said: "We have

done lots of work with The Empty Can before so we thought why not get together and do something for this.

"We were going to do our usual flash-mob but then we thought 'well why don't we be a bit more original?'

Idea

"In actual fact it was a lady outside of the group who had the idea as with the amount of different things we do throughout the year we sometimes miss the bigger events."

The grannies performed to live music and people were asked to donate in return for the smooth moves.

Pudsey the Bear also featured alongside the act.

Miss Nicholls said: "We convinced local artist Luke Perry to be Pudsey. We have worked with him before so we asked him if he wanted to be Pudsey and eventually we were able to talk him round to the idea.

"When you are doing an event for Children in Need you can call the BBC and tell them and they will provide a Pudsey timeslot where they will give you the suit. When you are done with it you give it back and they hand it out to someone else. Luke got a bit sweaty so I hope they had it dry cleaned."

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Awards recognise Black Country sporting heroes

THE region's most dedicated and driven athletes and volunteers have been recognised for their sporting efforts at an inspirational ceremony.

Wolverhampton's Olympic medallist gymnast Kristian Thomas, who trains with Earls Gymnastics Club in Halesowen, took the overall Sportsperson of the Year title at the sixth annual Black Country Sport and Physical Activity awards.

The 14 winners, announced at The Light House Media Centre in Wolverhampton, were picked from a shortlist of 39 athletes, coaches and sports clubs drawn from over 100 nominations.

Organised by the Black Country BeActive, this year's event was supported by the Express & Star, the University of Wolverhampton, Radio WM and Wolves Community Trust.

Andy Webb, BeActive Black Coun-

try partnership director, said: "We all know the Black Country has a proud sporting heritage, with many world and Olympic medallists coming from the area."

"Many of these people, such as Denise Lewis or even Kristian Thomas, started out in clubs around here that have been recognised all over the world as great sporting institutions."

"We will never forget our heritage but now we are seeing the start of a new era we can all be tremendously proud of. We are now not just producing world-class athletes but world-leading athletes, who are setting the targets for others to catch up with. If the Black Country actually was a country it would have finished eighth in this year's Commonwealth Games, which shows the wealth of talent we have."



Award winner Kristian Thomas with University of Wolverhampton Deputy Vice-Chancellor Ian Oakes

Overseas orders are boost for business

A FAMILY-run foundry has announced that it is expecting to secure almost £7 million worth of overseas exports over the next five years and take on more staff.

Boro Foundry Ltd, which has been based in Lye for 60 years, is a specialist manufacturer and supplier of castings and machined parts.

The overseas deals, worth £6.85 million in total, are to supply bespoke castings for cement manufacturers and the power transmission industry, converting waste into energy.

The foundry employs 34 people, including five apprentices, and the new deals will allow them to recruit more staff to deal with the influx of new business.

Expand

Nick Morrell, from The Boro Foundry, is responsible for new business development. He said: "The domestic market had been quiet for a while so, a couple of years ago, we decided to take the plunge and look seriously at new opportunities overseas."

The new deals were secured with the help of UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), a government department designed to help UK-based companies expand and survive overseas in the international market.

The company first began working with UKTI in May 2013.

Mr Morrell said: "We joined UKTI's Passport to Export scheme, took part in market visits to Finland and Sweden and attended several classes, including a

By Charlie Benton

seminar at the UK Embassy in Stockholm. The benefits have been incredible.

"This year we've supplied contracts with companies in the waste-to-energy sector in Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Germany worth a total of £610,000 and we expect to secure annual deals for the next five years worth over £1.25m."

"Our UKTI trade adviser, Ben Hale, has been invaluable, I've dubbed him the Oracle as he seems to be the font of all knowledge about exports."

"The support from UKTI has given us the confidence to push forward in many export markets and continues to provide us with the tools we need to grow our exports and focus on the best areas for our products."

He added: "We require additional skills and we will continue training existing staff, use innovative technologies within our industry and we will now be looking to take on more staff to cope with demand."

"There are plenty of opportunities for us to grow."

Work to start on schools reception

WORK is due to start within weeks on a new reception building for school parties at Black Country Living Museum. Given the go-ahead by planners last week, the building will be near the new Dudley Archives and has been designed in the style of an industrial workshop.

As well as a reception area it will include toilets, a lecture theatre and a covered canopy.

Last year the museum received around 500 schoolchildren per day during peak times, which caused problems with overcrowding at the main entrance.

Museum chief executive and director Andrew Lovett said the new facility would take pressure off the museum's main visitor entrance and enable the venue to boost visitor numbers.

He said: "We are delighted with the news. This will allow us to welcome the 60,000 school children that visit the museum each year, in a much better and efficient way."

Move to demolish Helix factory building

A STATIONERY factory which once employed more than 700 people will be demolished, under new plans.

Helix closed its plant in Engine Lane, Lye, eight years ago following a 50-year presence at the site.

The firm left the town after French stationery giant Maped completed the buyout of the company.

The seven-acre site has since been marketed by Wolverhampton-based Bulleys, priced at £3.4 million.

Memories

Last week a planning application was submitted to Dudley Council to knock down the factory building.

Lye ward Councillor Mohammed Hanif, who worked at the factory for 24 years, said: "I feel sad to hear it is being knocked down because it is a place where many people worked and will have fond memories of."

"But equally I hope someone comes in and redevelops the site."

He added that he hoped a retail complex would be built on the site, bringing employment for the area.

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Son is told to pay doctor who killed his father

A SON has been ordered to pay thousands of pounds in legal fees after he was sued by the foreign doctor who killed his father.

David Gray died from a massive drug overdose administered by Daniel Ubani on his first shift after flying to the UK from Germany to work as a locum doctor.

Although Ubani was struck off the medical register in the UK, he continues to practise in Germany.

In their campaign for justice, Mr Gray's two sons, Rory and Stuart — a GP in Cradley Heath — confronted Ubani at a medical conference in 2010 accusing him of being 'a charlatan', 'a killer' and an 'animal'.

Rory Gray, aged 49, was sued in a German court by Dr Ubani for the remarks he made at the conference.

Intimidate

Now, a court in Lindau, Germany, has ruled that Mr Gray must pay three quarters of the legal costs, running into thousands of pounds. He must also write Dr Ubani a letter promising never to call him an 'animal' again, and has also been warned he could face a £200,000 fine if he repeats the insult.

Mr Gray said: "It is grotesque. Dr Ubani has never shown any remorse and has tried to intimidate us through the courts.

Dr Ubani was charged with death by negligence at a court in Witten and given a nine-month suspended sentence and ordered to pay 5,000 euros (£4,100) costs but has since continued to practise.

Mr Gray, a scientist who lives in Germany, said he was taking legal advice over the letter and could not comment further on the court action.

Dr Ubani has refused to return to the UK, where he has been struck off the medical register by the General



Stuart, left, and Rory Gray, at an inquest held into their father's death



Dr Daniel Ubani continues to work in Germany Fatal dose — David Gray

Medical Council. An inquest found GP service provider Take Care Now, at the time of Mr Gray's death.

Mr Gray and his brother Stuart, who works at Church View surgery in Halesowen Road, have claimed the German authorities failed to carry out an effective investigation into his death. They complained to the European Court of Human Rights but it found no violation of human rights.



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Investment in training is key

A BUSINESS leader in the Black Country says businesses need to invest in training to move forward.

The latest Workforce Survey results, published by the British Chambers of Commerce, highlight that 92 per cent of businesses across the country have identified a skills shortage in at least one key area.

Skills are in demand for leadership and management, planning and organisation, languages, computer literacy and creativity.

Responding to the survey results, Black Country Chamber of Commerce President, Ninder Johal, said: "Businesses recognise that investing in training can drive higher productivity and increased profits. However, the findings make it clear that investment in leadership and management skills are crucial to enhance strategic thinking, foster innovation and motivate employees. This is an area where the Black Country Chamber of Commerce is at the forefront."

Star support right on cue for snooker club



John Virgo and Jimmy White at the charity night at Snooks

SNOOKER legends Jimmy White and John Virgo set the green baize ablaze with their skills when they visited an Halesowen club.

The celebrities accepted an invitation to demonstrate their skill at Snooks snooker hall and local players were 'cueing up' to take them on. Around 125 fans turned up to watch local players challenge the pair.

Club owner Mike Rizzo said: "It was an absolutely fantastic evening and both players stopped to have a few drinks with people afterwards." The charity event on Saturday is expected to raise hundreds of pounds to help fight multiple sclerosis.

The fundraiser was one of three similar events held at Snooks. Among celebrity players to have appeared at the Long Lane club are Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Tony Drago and current world champion Neil Robertson.

White became a fans' favourite in the 1980s and 90s when six-times world champion Virgo was famous for his trick shots, comments on snooker for the BBC.

Toxic gas cannisters found on bridle path

GAS cylinders have been found dumped on a bridle path. Environment officers found the cylinders along a path off the Bridgnorth Road in Wombourne.

Of the 56 cylinders found, three were full of a toxic gas called chlorodifluoromethane, normally used in refrigeration. Damaged valves on all three cylinders prompting fears they could have leaked the gas into the atmosphere.

Inhaling chlorodifluoromethane can irritate the nose, throat and lungs, causing tightness in the chest and difficulty with breathing.

The three cylinders containing the gas were removed from the scene immediately by officials who took them to a safe storage area.

Environmental officers from South Staffordshire Council are appealing for information on where the cylinders may have come from. Call 01902 696200.

Owzat? Ex-bank chief Mervyn is now president of cricket club

FORMER Governor of the Bank of England and ex-Wolverhampton schoolboy Mervyn King has been appointed the president of Worcestershire County Cricket Club.

Lord King, a former pupil of Wolverhampton Grammar School, will be president for the club's 150th anniversary celebrations next year.

The son of a Gornal headmaster, Lord King grew up in Canterbury Road, Penn, and is a lifelong fan of the

club. Outgoing president John Elliott, praised the appointment as "a wonderful decision and a great name to be associated with the cricket club."

Lord King's support for the Pears goes back to their first County Championship title triumph in 1964.

He said he was keen to play an active role in Worcestershire's landmark year, and predicted exciting times ahead with the major redevelopment of New Road in the past decade and the young, talented squad which has earned promotion to Division One in the Championship.

Former Worcestershire wicket-keeper Elliott, who also spent

eight years as club chairman, added: "He is a very passionate supporter of Worcestershire. He will be around on the cricket circuit as well and is going to help with our fund-raising for the 150th anniversary year."

"It's a great name to have associated with the club."

Lord King said, who is also an avid Aston Villa supporter, said the appointment was a great honour.

"My youth was spent at New Road watching the first Worcestershire side win the county championship 50 years ago. With the 150th anniversary next year, there is much to celebrate in our history. The future is even brighter."



Appointed — Mervyn King

Albion medal beats estimate

AN FA Cup winner's medal belonging to a member of the victorious Albion side of 1968 exceeded expectations when it sold for £13,000 at auction.

The nine carat gold medal went under the hammer for £5,000 more than the estimate. It had been the property of centre half John Talbut who was in the starting XI for the match remembered for Jeff Astle's extra time winner.

The centre half joined West Bromwich Albion from Burnley in December 1966, for £30,000. He went on to play 144 league matches for the Baggies, during which time the club appeared in four League Cup finals. Mr Talbut ended his career in Belgium playing for KV Mechelen, who he later managed.

Graham Budd Auctions in London confirmed that 74-year-old Mr Talbut's medal had gone to a private collector.

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Leona leather and fabric manual reclining cornergroups.....	£299	£299
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Kirsten swivel recliner chair & footstool.....	£124	£124

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Complete Bedroom oak veneer - wardrobe, bedstead, chest & bedside cabinet	£1399	£598
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Silentnight Synergy Gold double drawer divan.....	£1399	£693

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Dining Chairs - assorted styles to clear	FROM £25	£25
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Deal over town nightclub

A NIGHTCLUB in Stourbridge will be taken over by a new operator after a business deal was struck by its parent group.

Chicago Leisure has been bought by the UK's largest nightclub operator, The Luminar Group, for an undisclosed sum.

Bosses will take over management of Chicago Rock Cafe, off the town's High Street. The Luminar Group has agreed to purchase the company which operates eight venues nationwide under the Chicago Rock Cafe and Chicago brands.

Cricket club nets £40k cash grant for building

A CRICKET club is celebrating after receiving a £40,000 grant which means it can refurbish its clubhouse and boost facilities for playing players.

It has been a successful period for the recently formed Oldswinford and Stourbridge Social Cricket Club which has already received a cash injection to pay for training equipment.

The two clubs merged last year after a successful partnership, which allowed players to take to the field for both sides, was finally formalised.

Around £36,000 was given to the cricket ground in Albermarle Road, Oldswinford, to provide new nets for players to use during training.

And now the club has been given a further £40,000 from Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund to revamp the clubhouse itself.

Leaking

Club officials say the money will be used to replace the roof at the Oldswinford venue, which has been leaking during wet weather.

A new kitchen is also being installed and new flooring laid inside the revamped clubhouse.

A patio area and seating is also being created for the benefit of members thanks to the cash injection.

Bosses say the work will start in the coming weeks with the aim of being completed in time for the next cricket season.

Around 60 adults play for the club's teams over weekends throughout the season, alongside more than 120 children.

The club's secretary Ken Slater said he was delighted that the recently united

club now uses a second cricket ground in Norwood Road, in Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, which will help expand the number of teams it can accommodate.

Oldswinford moved to its existing ground in 1983, but many of the original features of the clubhouse had fallen into disrepair over the years.

"The roof had been leaking a bit so that was one of the main things that we wanted to sorted out," said Mr Salter, whose three grandchildren, Tom, aged 12, Joe, 10, and seven-year-old Will play at the club.

The thriving club now has

up to 20 volunteer coaches who work with the various teams.

Dealership in a major revamp creates six jobs

A MAJOR refurbishment at a car dealership is expected to create six jobs.

Stourbridge Volkswagen, part of Trust Group UK, which also has Volkswagen sites in Wolverhampton and Redditch, is currently undergoing a £450,000 facelift.

The dealership based at Millennium House, Audnam, is assuring its customers that it will remain business as usual while the programme of works is underway.

Simon Volans, brand manager, said: "This is a significant investment by the Trust Group, with the Volkswagen brand going from strength to strength. It

shows a real commitment by us to the Stourbridge business community, as well as being a significant investment in the local economy."

The new jobs will include three new sales positions and a new technician's role.

The showroom will be overhauled resulting in state-of-the art customer facilities including a digital showroom, which will enable potential buyers to configure their dream car on-in-store iPads featuring a Volkswagen app.

The work is expected to finish by early January. Stourbridge Volkswagen offer new and approved used cars and after care service.

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New bridal store ready to book in

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

AFTER a nine-year stint based within Beatties, House of Fraser, the bridal department has finally decided to go it alone.

Adele Louise Bridal boutique will be opening its doors from November 21 in newly refurbished premises at 3 School Street, Wolverhampton.

Adele Edwards is the owner of Adele Louise Bridal and she has been based within House of Fraser in Wolverhampton with her bridal business, Bella Sposa, but Adele has now taken the decision to open up her own shop.

"Having our own salon means we can offer more flexibility to our customers," explains Adele.

Champagne

Adele Louise Bridal will offer customers late-evening appointments for both fittings and viewings, as well as special events including a VIP weekend which will take place on November 22 and 23.

The weekend will be a ticket-only event, with a champagne reception, canapés, the amazing designer Ian Stuart collection, as well as members of the Ian Stuart team, a solo opera singer, Mrs Cup and Saucer offering vintage afternoon tea, Rock Paper Scissors showcasing its collection of wedding stationery, California Hair Extensions, plus a fashion show.

Bespoke Creations and now Blooms formal hire have agreed to go along too.

Tickets are on sale for £5 each.



Visit Adele Louise Bridal at School Street, Wolverhampton

There will be many offers on during the VIP weekend including discounts, veil offers etc.

As well as an extensive range of designer wedding gowns, which includes Justin Alexander, Ian Stuart, Mori Lee, Ronald Joyce and Enzoani, Adele Louise Bridal will also showcase a range of bridesmaid gowns, prom dresses and designer evening gowns. It also stocks Richard Design veils and tiaras and Rainbow shoes.

Adele Louise Bridal is a premier bridal store based within the heart of Wolverhampton. It offers the full pack-

age for brides including tailoring your wedding gown to fit you perfectly, packaging your gown for destination brides, and now it is offering additional services including nails, hair and bridal make-up.

Brides who prefer VIP treatment will be able to hire the whole shop for the evening to include Fizz and a nibbles from a menu of fabulous food.

For more information contact Adele and the team on 01902 399900 or info@adelelouisbridal.co.uk or visit www.adelelouisbridal.co.uk

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Warming to the autumn fashions

Say goodbye to those summer days – it's time to enjoy what the autumn fashion scene has to offer

THOSE long hot days may now seem a distant memory but never fear there are some real treats in store on the autumn fashion scene.

These combine warmth, comfort and colour – bang up to date with the popular tartan look, wraps to keep out those chills and boots that combine style with comfort.

No need to trek too far to find the fashion, just pop into a nearby New Look store or go online and you can order them to be delivered into the store.

For formal look go for a brushed texture coat – £24.99 or wrap up warm with this tartan coat – £54.99



Red check mini skirt – £17.99 or go for the flowery look with this top – £22.99



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Easy colour to match up – £64



Tan buckle ankle boot – £69.99



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Widow died due to a rare side-effect

A WIDOW from Quarry Bank died in hospital following an operation to examine the cause of her abdominal pain, an inquest heard.

Assistant Black Country coroner Angus Smillie ruled that Joyce Thomas died from natural causes as her death was caused by a known side-effect.

The inquest heard that Mrs Thomas, an 83-year-old retired bookbinder from Church Street, had been admitted to Russells Hall Hospital on September 2 as a day-case patient for an endoscopic procedure after she had complained about intermittent abdominal pain.

Dr Sharan Shetty, consultant gastroenterologist at Russells Hall Hospital, said the procedure was not successful because Mrs Thomas was suffering from a hernia. A further examination revealed a ruptured spleen.

She was transferred to the intensive therapy unit and died on September 11.

Dr Shetty said damage to the spleen was a known side-effect of this kind of endoscopy, although it was rare, occurring in just one in 6,000 cases.



Father Christmas and his feathered friend launch the Santa Safari at West Midland Safari Park

Santa's gone on safari at popular animal attraction

THEY are more used to soaring through the jungle than a winter wonderland but a group of parrots are settling into their new home at West Midland Safari Park.

Santa Claus himself was on hand to welcome the 52 Rainbow Lorikeets parrots to the Bewdley attraction last week.

A new enclosure, called Lorikeet Landing, has been created to feature during the park's Santa Safari events which started on Saturday for the festive season.

The new exhibit is an all-weather, purpose built exhibit that is located in the attraction's Discovery Trail.

The breed are a species of Australasian parrot that is native to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, Australia and Tasmania.

But while temperatures outside will plummet over the coming weeks, the bird will be keeping warm with temperatures kept at a steady and very pleasant 18°C (64°F).

Safari park spokeswoman Wendy Jackson said: "These beautiful free-flying birds have brightly coloured red, green, blue, yellow and orange feathers along with a curved red bill. And, unlike some bird species, it is hard to distinguish between the males and females. This really is a case of all things bright and beautiful. It's the perfect opportunity for visitors to get up close to see these lovely little birds in this brand new walk-through exhibit that has been themed as a tropical paradise."

Santa Safari is open weekends to November 23 then daily from November 26 until Christmas Eve.

Nine out of 10 are now happy with 111 service

NINE out of 10 patients who used the non-emergency NHS helpline were satisfied with it since it was handed over to West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS), a report on the past years has shown.

During the previous year WMAS has received in the region of 850,000 calls into the service.

People can call 111 for advice when seeking help with non-emergency and out-of-hours health matters 24 hours a day.

It is a marked turnaround from when it was first introduced in April 2013, replacing the former NHS Direct, and call centres run by different providers were struggling to cope.

The non-emergency helpline was broken up into 46 contracts and NHS Direct itself was left in deficit and forced to close. The ambulance service took it over in the West Midlands in November 2013.

Figures from a patient survey show 91.3 per cent were satisfied with the service received, 77.1 per cent of which were very satisfied. Just 3.4 per cent were dissatisfied. There were also 88.8 per cent of users who said they were likely to recommend the service.

The service increased staffing levels and training. Daren Fradley, NHS 111 West Midlands director, said: "A considerable amount of work has gone into stabilising and developing the service over the last 12 months.

"There is no doubt that the public of the West Midlands now have access to the service."

one of the best quality and performing NHS 111 services in the country. This is also clear to see in the feedback we are getting from the patients.

"I would also like to thank the entire team whose work has not only made this possible but also had such a positive impact on the public we serve."

"We are proud of what we achieved during the last year but we will not be resting on our laurels. We will continue to improve the service we offer to ensure it is the best it possibly can be, and patients continue to receive the highest possible level of care."

Rachael Ellis, 111 lead commissioner West Midlands, said: "Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group is pleased to report that the service is stable and that call volumes are increasing as patients realise the benefits of the service which delivers quick, responsive advice and assistance. We are seeing month on month growth in the service."

Sunjay playing blues on pub folk club bill

A TALENTED folk blues guitarist and singer-songwriter is returning home to the Black Country to host a night of folk music.

Sunjay Brayne, from Kingswinford, was nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards. Now the 20-year-old is hosting the night featuring Shrewsbury-born singer Dan Owen and Eddy Morton from Stourbridge.

Dan's new video for Ballad of Hollis Brown has attracted the attention of Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac who has become his mentor. As a solo artist Eddy Morton has released three albums and supported acts including The Saw Doctors, Manfred Mann, Ralph McTell and Lindisfarne.

The Stourbridge Folk Club show takes place at Katie Fitzgerald, in Enville Street, Wollaston, on Thursday, November 27.

Tickets cost £8 in advance from www.stourbridgefolkclub.com or call (01384) 374410.

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Landlords to check immigration status

PRIVATE landlords across the Black Country boroughs will face fines of up to £3,000 from December if they fail to check on the immigration status of their new tenants.

The Home Office has launched the 'right to rent' scheme, which is being rolled out gradually, being introduced first across the two areas. The scheme is part of a drive to identify illegal immigrants and to deny them access to public services they are not entitled to.

A new code of practice for landlords asks that the immigration status of everyone who is to occupy a new tenancy is checked. Only those well known to a landlord, such as immediate family members, will be exempt.

The Home Office is providing a landlord checking service, which will respond within two working days to enquiries to confirm the status of those people that have outstanding immigration applications or appeals.

From December 1 landlords will be required to request evidence of a person's identity and citizenship, such as a passport or a biometric residence permit. Copies of the documents will have to be taken and kept for 12 months after the tenancy has ended. Under 18s will be exempt.



Send in the clowns — a scene from the strange and surreal Slava's Snowshow

Indoor snowstorm blasts the senses in unique show

Slava's Snowshow,
Birmingham Hippodrome
BLIZZARD conditions hit
Birmingham when this
wonderfully weird show re-
turned to the Hippodrome,
as it marked its 21st year on
tour of the world.

To describe this production as a clown show with a wintery theme is to sell it short. It is more Salvador Dalí than Billy Smart.

Russian clown Slava Polunin, who no longer performs in the show, has devised a unique spectacle. He has done for clowning what Cirque du Soleil did for circus as a whole but with a ripple of grim humour. It starts with a clown with his head in a noose.

The combination of dream

imagery, haunting music and slow-burning comedy is punctuated by showstopping set-pieces.

These include a cobweb that envelopes the audience and an indoor snowstorm that remains one of the most sensational moments of stagecraft in modern theatre.

Bouncing

The show ends with giant bouncing balls being released into the auditorium. The clowns watch the audience become children, whatever their age, playing in Britain's biggest ballpit.

The only people left unhappy must be the Hippodrome's cleaners, faced with mounds of paper 'snow' to clean up.

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HILLTOP OF BURRIDGE

City welcomes return of German Market

FIVE million people, 200 stalls and £90 million for the regional economy — Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market leads the way for festive attractions.

Covering nearly a mile stretch, running from The Bullring to Victoria Square and on to a big wheel at Centenary Square, the annual market has become a festive favourite. It opened for the 14th year last weekend and five million people are expected to have visited it by the end of the six-week run on December 22.

The smell of bratwurst (sausage) fills the air, and German lager and gluhwein will be slugged by the gallon as people peruse the wooden chalet-like stalls to buy sweet treats, continental decorations or even a reindeer hide.

What started out as a speculative pilot project, encompassing just 10 stalls, has grown into the centrepiece of the West Midlands' Christmas calendar — and what is believed to be the biggest German market outside Germany.

WOMEN in the West Midlands are pushing themselves to breaking point by shouldering the burden of care for relatives because of feelings of duty and guilt, according to new figures from a healthcare group.

New research from Bupa shows that a 'sense of duty' is causing women to delay important decisions about care for older relatives, resulting in a knock-on effect on their relationships and even on their own health.

Nearly two thirds (64 per cent) of women in the West Midlands would put off thinking about a care home as a solution as they feel it is 'their duty' to look after their family.

Yet one in three (33 per cent) also say that caring for relatives has led to a strain in their own relationship.

Burden

It means that important care decisions are being left to the last minute and women in the West Midlands are pushing themselves to breaking point by shouldering the burden of care.

One third (33 per cent) say that caring for relatives has impacted on their own health.

Almost half (48 per cent) of women in the West Midlands say it would be their sole responsibility to find a care home for an elderly relative.

And women in the West Midlands are much more likely than men to feel guilty

about moving a relative into a care home.

Andrew Cannon, managing director of Bupa Care Services, said: "We know women are usually the main carers in families.

"We regularly see daughters, wives and sisters in emotional turmoil because they know they need more support to look after a loved one but don't know where to turn.

"They have done a remarkable job in caring up to that point, but the stress has taken its toll on their wider lives.

"Often they turn for help only at a time of crisis."

He added: "That's why it's vital not to let a sense of duty get in the way of important decisions about care."

"Delays can be unhelpful for the older person being cared for, but it can also have an impact on health, family life and affect people's wider relationships at work and home."

Dig in with a big bucketful of the JCB boys live

CD reviews by Danny Farragher

Nizlopi Live (@ The Borderline)

IN spite of the infamous email in which Luke Concannon declared Nizlopi were no more the Leamington Spa lads are back with their first major tour in six years and of course a live album.

It seems the JCB duo is back with a vengeance complete with John Parker's beatbox and double bass.

On the album they straddle, folk, indie, acoustic and hip hop styles to explore relationships, girlfriends and questionable sexualities, and there is of course their massive hit JCB.

The first track, I'm Alive Again, from their 2008 album Make It happen, introduces you to Concannon's distinctive voice and Part of Me sees the rapper expressing feelings many will connect with.

Nizlopi Live (@ The Borderline) is available now through the band's website and on digital download.

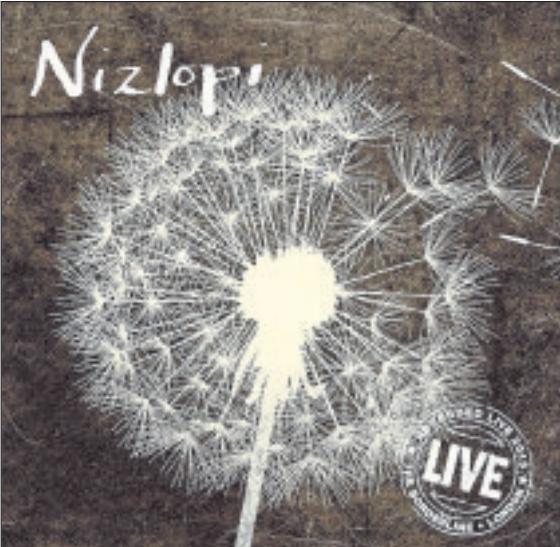
Jez Lowe

This is the first album from mellow-voiced Geordie Jez Lowe for four years and the songs span nearly 10 years in the making.

This collection of thoughtful and witty songs was mostly written for the BBC R2 Radio Ballads programmes.

The album is in five categories Great and Goods, Tracks and Field, Writes and Wrongs, Billys and Tommies and finally Buffs and Blues. The headings give an insight into the inspirations behind the songs.

Lowe is a master storyteller and through song he takes the listener into a wide range of thoughtful and thought-provoking tales and observations. From the barbed lyrics of Ber-



Nizlopi are back on the road and their live album is out now

In 36 and Names to the light-hearted memories of childhood fairgrounds in Bother at the Hoppins and the cheeky lyrics of The Morpeth Olympics.

The Ballad Beyond is on the Tantibie Label.

Wildest Dreams Matt Woosley

By his own admission Woosley, originally from Malvern, Worcestershire, is spreading his wings a little, offering more than the blues he is respected for.

At times Woosley's voice has a Tom Waits sort of depth to it but slightly

less gritty and dirty sounding and occasionally it has the sneering tone of Billy Idol.

Same Old Blues does exactly what is says on the tin but adds a Springsteen-style rock rift. The blues step up another level for I've Seen the Bottom with the thumping beat opening.

And guitar virtuoso Woosley eases things up a little with Nowhere Is home as his voice takes on an almost lazy feeling.

Wildest Dreams is out now on Robar Music Records.

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**House full signs
for big Civic gigs**

BLACK Country rock god Robert Plant has reportedly rubbed his claims that Richard Branson offered him multi-millions to join a Led Zeppelin reunion but fans of the iconic rocker can see him in action at a sold-out Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

There's another full house when sassy soul singer Paloma Faith funks up the venue with her Perfect Contradiction album on Saturday. The same day next door at a packed Wulfrun Hall, from noon to midnight, punk rockers — including Slaughter & The Dogs, UK Subs and Spudogenessabounds — celebrate Daz Russell's 30 years putting on gigs. You can get a ticket for The Specials at the Civic tonight (Thursday).

Savage evening of rock 'n' roll ahead

BIRMINGHAM gig highlights kick off with bluesy rock 'n' roll from Barrence Whitfield & The Savages at The Institute in Digbeth tonight (Thursday). James will urge fans to Sit Down at the NIA on Saturday while James Blunt will be sharing his Moon Landing at the same venue on Sunday. That's the same night New Jersey rockers The Gaslight Anthem play the 02 Academy. New York singer-songwriter Sharon Van Etten is at The Institute on Wednesday.

The Robin 2 in Bilston revels in 80s nostalgia, plus some newer material, from Go West on Saturday and China Crisis on Sunday.

American classic Mockingbird being brought to life on stage

Bad boy is a panto 'stalker'

HIS alter-ego Peter Barlow has just been cleared of murder but Coronation Street's Chris Gascoyne is gearing up for another bad boy role as he prepares for Birmingham's big panto.

He left the soap this month after 14 years and will head to the West Midlands for his festive role.

The actor will play Fleshcreep in Jack and the Beanstalk, with pop singer Duncan James, from Blue, as the dashing Jack.

Fun

Chris said: "I am hoping it is going to be good fun, nice and light-hearted."

Duncan is itching to get started. "I've done a lot of theatre and appeared in the West End but I've never had the opportunity to do pantomime," he said.

Their co-stars include Jane McDonald, Gary Wilmot, Paul Zerdin and Matt Slack. The Hippodrome panto runs from December 19 to February 1.



Duncan James and Chris Gascoyne look forward to Jack and the Beanstalk in Birmingham

A MUCH-loved classic American novel comes to the stage when an acclaimed version of Harper Lee's story of childhood, courage and racial prejudice, To Kill A Mockingbird, arrives in Birmingham.

The New Alexandra Theatre will be the venue for the touring incarnation of Regent Park Open Air Theatre's production. It has been adapted by Christopher Sergel from Harper Lee's novel.

The Pulitzer Prize winner, set in America's Deep South during the 1930s, was recently ranked the seventh most influential book on society in a survey commissioned by The Folio Society.

Lawyer

It takes a child's eye view of events when young Scout's small town lawyer father Atticus Finch defends a black man who has been accused of rape, despite widespread condemnation by their neighbours.

Directed by Timothy Sheader, To Kill a Mockingbird opened Regent's Park Open Air Theatre's 2013 season to critical acclaim and sell out performances.

It will be staged in Birmingham from Tuesday to Saturday, November 25. Daniel Betts will play Atticus alongside Zackary Momoh as the accused Tom Robinson and Christopher Akrill as the mysterious Boo Radley. Jemima Bennett, Ava Potter and Rosie Boore with share the role of Scout.



Jemima Bennett as Scout

An adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's First World War love story A Farewell To Arms is at Birmingham Rep's Studio venue tonight, tomorrow and Saturday.

Roald Dahl's The BFG starts a whiz-popping Christmas run at The Rep on November 26.

Saucy musical The Full Monty, in which redundant steel workers reinvent themselves as strippers to a disco soundtrack, stars EastEnders and Hollyoaks actor Gary Lucy at Wolverhampton Grand from Monday to Saturday.

Bouncers' view of the clubbers

GET the doorman's view of a Friday night on the town when John Godber's play about 1980s clubbing, Bouncers, revived by Reform Theatre Company, is staged at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow.

The Wulfrun Street venue, part of the University of Wolverhampton, is on Saturday hosting The Ugly Girl, which has been described as a surreal slapstick musical. It features Liz Carr and is brought to the theatre by Disability Arts Touring Network.

A Black Country Poetry Night at the Arena on Wednesday, November 26, features Liz Berry, Emma Purhouse, Dave Reeves and Billy Spakeman.

For each event tickets are £10 (£8 concessions).

Holly night to get in a festive mood

THOSE in a festive mood can celebrate Holly at Christmas with the Buddy Holly and the Cricketers show at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre tonight combining a tribute to the rock 'n' roll star with seasonal tunes. Tomorrow the city centre venue has the Jackson Live in Concert tribute to Michael Jackson by Ben with band and singers and on Saturday prepare for a long night of laughter when comedy veteran Ken Dodd tickles his audience. The one-nighters continue on Sunday with another rock 'n' roll tribute, Roy Orbison and Friends with Halesowen's Barry Steele as The Big O.

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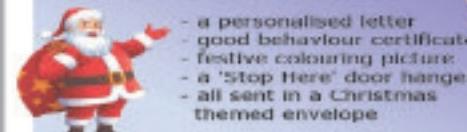
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SATURDAY'S TV NOVEMBER 22

CHOICE



Dominic Sandbrook

Tomorrow's Worlds: The Unearthly History of Science Fiction (BBC2, 9.45pm)

In a new four-part series, historian Dominic Sandbrook examines the genre which has dominated the media for decades, after years of being on the fringes of popular culture. And there's no shortage of big names taking part, including Star Trek veterans William Shatner and Nichelle Nichols, Star Wars's feuding duo Anthony Daniels and Kenny Baker, Avatar's Zoe Saldana and one of the genre's most popular authors, Neil Gaiman. In episode one, Dominic examines sci-fi's enduring fascination with outer space, from Jules Verne's groundbreaking 19th-century vision of a voyage to the moon, to that galaxy far, far away in Star Wars.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **11.30 Football Focus.** **12.00 BBC News:** Weather. **12.10 Live Formula 1:** Abu Dhabi Grand Prix – Qualifying. The battle for pole in the final round of the season begins at 1.30pm. **1.30 Live International Rugby Union:** Scotland v Tonga (kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30 Final Score.** **5.20 Celebrity Mastermind.** (R) **5.50 BBC News:** Regional News. Weather.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities: Alexander Armstrong presents a sports special, featuring Dennis Taylor, Bobby George, Sharon Davies, Louise Hazel, Dwan Chambers, Gail Emms, Ugo Monya and Phil Vickery.

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing: After the excitement of Blackpool Tower Ballroom, the pro-celebrity couples make their way back to the studio – and with another couple having been voted out last week, the competition will be more tense than ever. But there will be plenty of spinning and sequins as the hopefuls tackle a number of demanding routines in the hope of getting their names at the top of the leaderboard. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present, while Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are the ones to impress. The results are tomorrow at 7.15pm.

8.15 Atlantis. Part two of two. Peacock returns to May siege to the city, and the other home rests with Jason, Hercules and Pythagoras, who are far from home fighting their own battle.

9.00 Casualty. An asylum seeker refuses life-saving surgery because of his religious beliefs. Big Mac tries to reunite a Burmese man with his daughter and Dylan helps Ethan with a diagnosis.

9.50 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin celebrates 20 years of the National Lottery, with a performance from shadow dancers Attraction charting the history of lottery funding in the UK.

10.00 BBC News: Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Arsenal v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The Football League Show. **1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.10 BBC News.**

BBC2

8.20 Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix – Practice Two. **9.55 Live Formula 1:** Abu Dhabi Grand Prix – Practice Three. **11.05 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts.** (R) **12.15 James Martin: Home Comforts.** (R) **1.00 Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey.** (R) **2.00 Escape to the Country.** (R) **2.45 Film:** *The Red Shoes*. (1948) Powell and Pressburger's drama, starring Moira Shearer. **4.55 Live International Rugby Union:** Wales v New Zealand (kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 Fly! Fly! Trade Secrets. The experts examine the smallest and largest collectibles featured on the show, and Paul Martin visits Wiltshire where the Science Museum stores its oversized objects.

8.00 Perry and Crisp: Made in Britain. The celebration of comedy writing duo David Croft and Jimmy Perry continues with an examination of how their sitcoms chronicled the UK's class system in the 20th century.

8.30 Dad's Army. The platoon takes part in an efficiency test in a bid to prove its worth, but mistakenly attacks a tea lady with onions from Jones's van. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Bill Bailey, Sandi Toksvig, Jason Manford and regular panellist Alan Davies try to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions about lethal things.

9.45 Tomorrow's Worlds: The Unearthly History of Science Fiction. New series. Dominic Sandbrook explores the many aspects of the genre and examines its impact on cinema, television and literature. He begins by looking at sci-fi's enduring fascination with outer space, from Jules Verne's pioneering 19th-century vision of a voyage to the moon, to the latest George Lucas' film for Star Wars.

Along the way, he reveals how Stanley Kubrick made 2001: A Space Odyssey seem so believable and why a man in a dressing gown became one of sci-fi's best-loved heroes in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

10.45 Intruders. Jack discovers the cause of Amy's recent strange behaviour.

11.30 Film: *Minority Report.* (2002) Sci-fi thriller, starring Tom Cruise.

1.50 ITV News: Weather. **2.00 The Chase.** (R) **1.00 Jackpot247.** **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. **6.50 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. **7.05 Cannimals.** (R) **7.10 Cannimals.** (R) **7.20 Sigmund Stories:** Share a Story. **7.25 So You Think You Can Dance?** (R) **7.30 The Animal Series.** (R) **7.50 Matilda the Chronicles.** **8.15 Horrid Henry.** (R) **8.30 The Hungry Sailors.** (R) **10.25 The Munch Box.** **9.30 The Surprise Surprise.** (R) **11.20 TV News:** Weather. **11.25 Storage Hoarders.** (R) **12.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **1.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R)

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1.50 ITV News: Weather. **2.00 The Chase.** (R) **1.00 Jackpot247.** **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Trans World Sport. **7.10 The Grid.** **7.35 Anglesey Sandman Triathlon.** **8.00 The Morning Line.** **9.00 Weekend Kitchen.** **10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.35 Frasier.** (R) **11.05 Film:** *Trading Christmas.* (2011) A lonely widow and a frustrated artist arrange to swap houses over Christmas, and both find themselves having unexpected romances. Comedy, starring Faith Ford and Gail O'Grady and Robert Mallhouse. **3.45 Film:** *My Santa.* (2013) Premiere. Drama, starring Samaira Armstrong.

5.30 Film: *Crazy for Christmas.* (2005) Family drama, starring Andrea Roth.

7.15 Film: *Christmas Wishes.* (2012) A teacher at a boarding school agrees to look after troubled students who are unable to go home for the Christmas holidays.

His career is threatened when a pupil vandalises a beloved local tree where people can leave their handwritten wishes, but he rallies the townsfolk to repair the damage. Family drama, starring Jason Gedrick and Richard Harmon.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: *The Long Kiss Goodnight.* (1996) An amnesiac teacher starts to experience disturbing flashbacks of her former life and hires a private eye to help her learn more about her past. His findings unearth a murky past and her involvement with a shadowy government organisation – whose agents have been dispatched to kill them both. Action thriller, with Geena Davis and Samuel L. Jackson, alongside Malahide, Brian Cox and Craig Bierko.

11.20 Gotham. Bullock fears a copycat serial killer is targeting the offspring of the city's wealthiest citizens, while the net closes around Gordon for the apparent murder of Oswald Cobblepot. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10 The Gadget Show.** The presenters employ technology to transform their chances of beating professionals at their own game, with Orts Delery using a robot to take on a goalkeeper in a penalty shootout. (R)

4.00 How to Doctor. Ann McPherson works her magic on an array of garden frits in the Keween Green area of west London. (R) **4.25 Make It Bio.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.35 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.10 Access.** **10.15 Gibraltar:** Britain in the Sun. (R) **11.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **12.15 Film:** *Trading Christmas.* (2011) A lonely widow and a frustrated artist arrange to swap houses over Christmas, and both find themselves having unexpected romances. Comedy, starring Faith Ford and Gail O'Grady and Robert Mallhouse. **3.45 In Deep 4.00 Close.**

BBC Three **7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III:** Not in 3D **8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Sherlock 10.30 Live at the Apollo 11.00 Family Guy 1.15 Sweat the Small Stuff 1.45 Life Is Toff 2.15 The Revolution Will Be Televised 2.45 Live at the Apollo 3.15 Some Girls 3.45 In Deep 4.00 Close**

BBC Four **7.00 Natural World:** *Grizzlies of Alaska* **8.00 The Riviera:** A History in Pictures **9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.45 Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC 12.45 Top of the Pops: 1979 1.30 Sounds of the 70s 2: Art House Glam 2.45 Get in the Swing 2.00 Natural World:**

Grizzlies of Alaska 3.00 The Riviera: A History in Pictures **4.00 Close.**

ITV2

12.30 Film: *Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home.* **1.30 Film:** *Dungeons and Dragons* (2000) **2.30 Film:** *Storm* (1995) **2.50 Film:** *Deception* **3.00 Film:** *Inspector Morse 6.55 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Midsummers Murders 11.00 A Touch of Frost 12.45 Bomb Girls 1.35 World Kitchen 2.00 ITV3 Nighscreen 2.30 Teleshopping*

ITV4

11.20 Alias Smith and Jones 12.20 Movies Now 12.35 Film: *Cheyenne Autumn* (1964) **3.45 Film:** *Rooster Cogburn* (1975) **6.00 FIA Formula E Championship 7.00 Storage Wars 9.00 Film:** *A View to a Kill* (1985) **11.45 Film:** *Raging Bull* (1980) **2.25 Cheers 2.50 ITV4 Nighscreen 3.00 Teleshopping**

E4

12.00 How I Met Your Mother 1.00 Film: *A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures* (2010) **2.45 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 3.00 Made in Chelsea 4.00 Melissa & Joey 5.00 How I Met Your Mother 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Film:** *The Fourth Kind* (2009) **11.05 Rude Tube 12.10 The Inbetweeners 1.20 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 2.15 How I Met Your Mother 3.00 Franklin & Bash 3.45 Happy Endings**

Film4

2.50 The Time Machine (1960) **4.55 Star Trek: Insurrection** (1998) **7.00 The Secret of Santa Dismas** (2007) **9.00 Rush Hour 3** (2007) **10.45 Underworld: Awakening** (2012) **12.25 Room 237** (2011) **2.25 Apartment 143** (2011)

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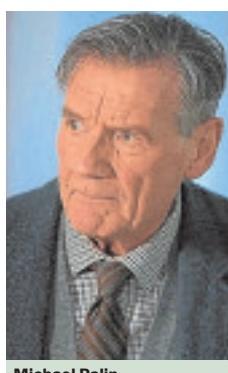
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CHOICE**Michael Palin****Remember Me**

It's 23 years since Alan Bleasdale's GBH first hit our screens. Incredibly, it marks the last time that Michael Palin took the lead role in a TV drama. But the seasoned traveler and comedian is back in this three-part series as Tom, an eightysomething pensioner living in a small Yorkshire town. He fakes a fall so he can be taken into residential care, but takes with him only an empty suitcase. Once he's settled in, a variety of bizarre events begin, sparked by the freak death of the social worker in charge of his case. Later, Hannah, the care worker Tom has bonded with, discovers sheet music and wax recordings of various versions of Scarborough Fair, but he becomes agitated when she sings it to him.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The final round of the season (Start-Time: 1.00pm). **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Life Story. (R) **5.00** BBC News; Regional News. Weather.

6.15 **Cotswold.** The team is in Berkshire, where John Craven visits the agricultural college and discovers the village of Stanhope, the inspiration for artist Stanley Spencer. Shauna Lowry heads to a valley where hundreds of racehorses train each day, and meets the son of crime writer and jockey Dick Francis. Wildlife expert Sanjida O'Connell walks the Ridgeway, the Roman road that winds its way across the county, and discovers how the landscape has inspired writers, including Wind in the Willows author Kenneth Grahame. Tom Heap investigates measures to get tough against the persecutors of birds of prey. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges, and Barry Manilow performs an old favourite.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** The team visits Tredegar House near Newport in Wales, where items include a tapestry woven in tribute to Statute Quo, a frog-shaped brooch and an intricately carved cornucop.

9.00 **Remember Me.** New series. Supernatural thriller starring Michael Palin as an elderly man whose admittance to a nursing home triggers a series of inexplicable events. Mark Addy co-stars.

10.00 **BBC News: Weather.**

10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark O'Leary reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Crystal Palace v Liverpool at Selhurst Park and Hull City v Tottenham Hotspur at the KC Stadium.

11.30 **The Apprentice.** (R)

12.30 **Film: Protocol.** (1984) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

7.15 **Countryfile.** (R) **8.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** James Martin's Food Map of Britain: (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** International Rugby Union. **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.45** Live Women's International Football. **5.00** Coast. (R) **5.30** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R)

6.15 **Flog It!** Antiques experts Michael Baggott and Philip Serrall value the goods on show in Barmesley, South Yorkshire, and Paul Martin talks to artist Graham Ibbeson. (R)

7.00 **Secrets of the Castle with Ruth Peter and Tom.** Ruth Goodman, Peter Gunn and Tom Pinfold learn the skills of medieval builders by heading to France to join a project to construct a 13th-century castle from scratch. (R)

8.00 **The Mekong River with Sue Perkins.** The comedienne continues her journey up the Southeast Asian river and reaches Laos, where she spends a day with novice Buddhist monks and visits the Xayaburi hydroelectric dam.

9.00 **World's Greatest Food Markets.** Billingsgate fish merchant Roger Barton pits himself against traders at Mexico City's Central de Abasto, which is the largest wholesale food market on the planet.

10.00 **Russell Howard's Good News.** The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print, and he is joined by a guest with an amazing tale to tell. (R)

10.30 **The Wrong Mans.** Sam and Phil go on the run after managing to free Scarlett from Mr Lau's clutches and find temporary safety in the hands of enigmatic MI5 agent Walker. (R)

11.00 **The Wrong Mans.** Sam and Phil stumble upon an assassination plot. (R)

11.30 **Film: Moon.** (2009) An astronaut working alone at a base on the moon discovers the disturbing truth about both the operation he is running and his own identity. Sci-fi drama, starring Sam Rockwell.

1.00 **Film: The Quatermass Experiment.** (1955) **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryside. (R) **3.20** Holly City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 **CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show!** **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Cannimals. (R) **7.10** Cannimals. (R) **7.20** Signs Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Spooky. (R) **7.35** Bean: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **7.45** The Simpsons. (R) **8.00** The Simpsons. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.30** ITV News. **11.40** Film: Carry On Cruising. (1962) **1.30** The Unforgettable Joan Sims. (R) **2.00** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.00** The X Factor. (R) **4.40** Midsummer Murders. (R) **6.30** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.45** **ITV News: Weather.**

7.00 **Keep It in the Family.** Six stars of Bendon join Bradley Walsh in the studio as they prepare to face the dreaded drop. Crissy Rock (Janey), Sherrie Hewson (Joyce), Jake Canuso (Mateo), Janine Duvitski (Jacqueline), Tony Maudsley (Kenneth) and Perry Benson (Clive) provide assistance as the Mercer and Jacovides families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds to win big prizes. The celebrities each hold the clue to a gift, from new cars to holidays in the sun, and facing being sent through a trapdoor as the contestants decide whether to swap, drop or keep it in the family.

8.00 **The X Factor Results.** Dermot O'Leary reveals who is safe and who has scored the lowest number of votes. Plus, performances by some of the biggest acts in the charts.

9.00 **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** The surprises keep coming for the celebs as one of them faces a live Bush Tucker Trial in an attempt to win food for their fellow campmates. Having completed their first week Down Under, there are still plenty of nightmarish tasks ahead for the stars, and with homesickness setting in, some of them will be struggling. Ant and Dec round up the best bits from the past 24 hours.

10.30 **ITV News: Weather.**

10.45 **Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show. (R)

11.25 **Premiership Rugby Union.**

12.15 **Tv Stars.** **2.20** Motorsport UK. **3.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.55** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **NFL: The American Football Show.** **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Cannimals. (R) **7.10** Cannimals. (R) **7.20** Signs Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Fifteen to One. **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** Film: The Simpsons. (R) **4.45** Film: The Simpsons. (R) **5.50** Film: The Simpsons. (R) **6.10** Animated comedy, with the voice of Jesse Eisenberg.

7.40 **Channel 4 News.**

8.00 **Woolly Mammoth: The Autopsy.** The discovery of an extraordinarily well-preserved woolly mammoth in Siberia last year has quickened the pace of one of the most ambitious and controversial projects in science – the cloning of this iconic giant of the Ice Age. When it was dug out of the permafrost, a dark red liquid oozed from the frozen body. Could it be blood? This documentary follows an international team of experts carrying out a historic autopsy on the carcass and gains access to the leading mammoth de-extinction programmes happening now in the US and South Korea.

9.00 **Homeland.** CIA director Lockhart arrives just as Carrie's investigation faces complications, with the troubled agent learning Majid Javadi has hatched an audacious plan to intercept information he can sell on. US drama, starring Claire Danes and Tracy Bissett.

10.00 **Sarah Millican: Thoroughly Modern Millican.** Stand-up performance, recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo during the comedian's 2012 UK tour, featuring anecdotes on life's humdrum curiosities. (R)

11.00 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** The host is joined by entertainer Bette Midler, comedian Keith Lemon, and singer-songwriter James Blunt. Sam Smith performs his new single Like I Can. (R)

12.00 **Confessions of a Copper.** The first of two programmes in which programme makers lift the lid on their working lives. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** American Football. (Live) **1.45** Rock Giants v Dallas Cowboys. Kick-off 1.30pm. **2.45** Film: The Grid. (R) **3.15** SuperScrumpers. (R) **3.35** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.35** Seaside Antics. **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Out on the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** The Big Bang Theory. **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** The Paw Patrol. **7.45** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Wanda and the Alien. **8.25** Zack and Quack. **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.10** Lazy Town. (R) **9.15** Access. (R) **10.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Film: A Woman Called Goldie. (R) **1.30** The Christmas Secret. (2014) Premiere. Drama, starring Bethany Joy Lenz. **4.45** Film: Superstar III. (1983) Comic-book adventure sequel, starring Christopher Reeve.

7.15 **Film: Hancock.** (2008) A reclusive, alcoholic superhero ends up the most hated man in Los Angeles and looks to his habit of causing mayhem and destruction while trying to do good. However, when he saves the life of a PR guru, the grateful executive sets about transforming the public perception of the crime-fighter, despite his wife's strong misgivings. Comedy, starring Will Smith, Jason Bateman and Charlize Theron. Edited for language.

9.00 **Film: The Green Hornet.** (2011) Premiere. A wealthy playboy inherits a media empire when his father dies. Determined to do some good for a change, he uses his new-found fortune to become a masked crime-fighter. Aided by his chauffeur, who is a kung fu expert and a technical genius, he fights to bring down a powerful gangster. Comic-book adventure, starring Seth Rogen.

11.25 **Film: The Punisher.** (1989) A policeman-turned-vigilante must save the kidnapped children of a gangster whom he has sworn to bring down. Vigilante thriller, starring Dolph Lundgren.

1.05 **Super Casino.** **3.10** Family. (R) **3.55** Film: The Jersey Slayer. (R) **4.00** Hotel Doctor. (R) **4.25** Model in a Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jann. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 **Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix – Highlights.** **8.00** **Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes.** **8.15** **Film: The Proposal.** (2009) **10.00** **Family Guy.** **10.45** **Some Girls.** **11.15** **American Dad!** **12.00** **Life is Toff.** **12.30** **The Revolution Will Be Televised.** **1.00** **Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents.** **2.00** **Some Girls.** **2.30** **Sweat the Small Stuff.** **3.00** **The Revolution Will Be Televised.** **3.30** **Life is Toff.** **4.00** **Close.**

BBC Four

7.00 **The Great War.** **7.40** **Britain's Wildest Places.** **8.00** **The Day of the Triffids.** **9.00** **Hunt Lauda: F1's Greatest Racing Rivals.** **10.00** **Dolly Parton: The Quiet Champion.** **11.00** **Dolly Parton @ Glastonbury 2014.** **12.10** **Kenny Rogers: Cards on the Table.** **1.00** **Country Kings at the BBC.** **2.10** **Sounds of the 70s: The Bee Gees – Stir It Up.** **2.40** **Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy.** **3.45** **Close.**

ITV3

1.55 **McBusted:** The Hot Deck. **2.05** You've Been Framed! **2.40** **Film: Small Soldiers.** (1998) **3.00** **A Brilliant Getaway.** **3.45** **Film: Name Me Out of Her.** **5.00** **Film: Nammy McPherson.** **6.00** **Die Hard with a Vengeance.** **7.00** **Scorpion.** **9.00** **The Xtra Factor.** **10.00** **Scorpion.** **11.00** **Die Hard with a Vengeance.** **12.00** **I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here Now!** **11.35** **Education.** **12.40** **Two and a Half Men.** **1.30** **Dads 1.50** **The Vampire Diaries.** **2.35** **Kesha: The Hot Deck.** **2.45** **Nightscreen.** **3.40** **Emmerdale.**

ITV4

5.30 **Storage Wars.** **6.00** **British Touring Car Championship.** **6.45** **Premiership Rugby.** **7.00** **Scrum.** **7.45** **Film: Say Cheese.** (1971) **8.00** **Scorpio.** **9.00** **The Extra Factor.** **10.00** **Scorpion.** **11.35** **Film: First Blood.** (1982) **1.40** **Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors.** **2.30** **Tommy Cooper.** **2.55** **ITV4 Nightscreen.** **3.00** **Telephones.**

Film4

4.15 **Runda (sh) Tube Shorts.** **4.30** **The Big Bang Theory.** **8.00** **Film: 27 Dresses.** (2009) **10.10** **The Inbetweeners.** **11.20** **Drifters.** **11.50** **Bad Robots.** **12.25** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **1.25** **Rules of Engagement.** **2.20** **My Fair Wedding.**

Film5

4.15 **Runda (sh) Tube Shorts.** **4.30** **The Big Bang Theory.** **8.00** **Film: 27 Dresses.** (2009) **10.10** **The Inbetweeners.** **11.20** **Drifters.** **11.50** **Bad Robots.** **12.25** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **1.25** **Rules of Engagement.** **2.20** **My Fair Wedding.**

5.00 **Film: It's a Wonderful Life.** (1946) **5.25** **Star Trek.** (2009) **7.45** **The Golden Child.** (1988) **8.00** **Lockout.** (2012) **10.55** **Date Night.** (2010) **12.40** **Breathless.** (2008) **3.20** **Close.**

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Harry Brown, Channel 5, 10pm

An elderly retired marine leads a law-abiding existence on a south London estate, until his best friend is murdered by a local gang. Furious at the police's inability to bring the killers to justice, he takes the law into his own hands to get revenge. Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine. (2009)

TUESDAY

The Shooting Party, BBC1, 12.20am

An English aristocrat invites friends to his stately country home for a weekend of pheasant shooting in 1913. The guests enjoy the self-indulgent privileges of the upper classes, heedless of the local rural poor who cater to their every whim – and are blithely unaware that the approaching war will change their sheltered lives for ever. Period drama, based on Isabel Colegate's novel, with Edward Fox and Robert Hardy. (1985)

WEDNESDAY

New Town Killers, BBC1, 11.35pm

A teenager from inner-city Edinburgh agrees to act as prey in a deadly game of cat and mouse played by a wealthy banker and his latest recruit. However, the hunters always seem to be one step ahead and the youngster realises his chances of survival are slim. Thriller, starring Dougray Scott. (2008)



The World Is Not Enough, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY

Tomorrow Never Dies, ITV, 10.40pm

James Bond joins forces with a Chinese agent to foil a media mogul's scheme to start a war between their countries. Using an undetectable stealth ship, the press baron plans an attack on both nations' navies, knowing they will blame each other – giving him exclusive global media coverage of the resulting conflict. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan, Jonathan Pryce, Teri Hatcher and Michelle Yeoh. (1997)

FRIDAY

The World Is Not Enough, ITV, 10.45pm

James Bond is assigned to protect the heiress of an oil dynasty after her father is killed in a bombing at MI6 headquarters. The attack is the work of an infamous terrorist who is unable to feel pain after surviving a gunshot to his head, and who now intends to destroy the world's supply of oil. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan, Robert Carlyle, Sophie Marceau and Robbie Coltrane. (1999)

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PICK OF THE WEEK

Martin digs deep to find us the best deals

Financial journalist Martin Lewis has been frequenting our screens for years now, giving insider tips on how we can further tighten our purse-strings during these hard-up times.

In fact, the money-saving expert is nothing short of a godsend actually, and if anybody knows cash, it's him.

Of course, Mr Lewis' tips have been known to get him into trouble with the big guns of the trading world on the odd occasion, but, from challenging unfair parking tickets to doting on the know-how regarding those television adverts and pestering text messages about mis-sold PPI, his advice has proved priceless (pardon the pun) in the past.

So it's with open arms and loud cheers that we welcome him back to the telly, alongside reporter Saira Khan – and it's come at just the right time, and given the time of the year, there's a noticeable theme to this first episode.

The series kicks off on what's become known as 'Black Friday', the date marking the beginning of the

Christmas shopping season. But if you're already fretting because you don't even know where to start when it comes to present-buying this year, Martin will be listing all the essential deals that you expect to find in stores and online.

Meanwhile, Martin and Saira visit a family in Herfordshire for a personal stock take of all their belongings to help them raise money to pay for Christmas. And soon enough, any regrettably thought they'd have are forgotten, as they sell unused clothes, mobile phones, buggies and toys.

The Christmas Ideal Home Show is also on Martin and Saira's to-do list this week, as they give members of the public handy tips on how to drum up a bit of extra cash for the festive period, while Martin dresses up for pantomime season as Dame Right-Arm to show us how we can become wise consumers.

But Martin is keen to impart his expertise, he certainly doesn't want to sound like he's preaching, telling PA that he never intended to make money from doing this: "I

don't preach about how to make money. That's not really my thing at all or my passion to be honest.

"I was very lucky is the answer. I set up a website I believed in. It originally had no way of making money. I set up a business. I still don't consider myself to be an entrepreneur. I'm somebody who set up a website and I consider myself to be a journalist and consumer campaigner."

"Because the website got so big I needed a way to fund my servers, so I came up with the most ethical way I could think of to fund the site, and it did a lot better than I thought it would."

"I'm about providing information for consumers and fighting for consumer rights. I'm not about setting businesses up, and I think there are far more qualified people than me to talk about how to do that. I got lucky."

Whichever way you look at it, Martin, we're lucky that you got lucky, as our purses have been a lot heavier since you came along...



The Martin Lewis Money Show, Friday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Loch Ness Monster: The Missing Evidence
Channel 5, 8pm

Tales of a creature haunting Loch Ness go back for nearly 1,500 years, but only in the last century did the legend truly take off. At St Andrews University, statistical ecologist Charles Paxton has compiled a database of every sighting of the monster ever reported and his team hopes detailed analysis of these records will finally uncover the truth behind the myth of the Loch Ness monster. This programme uses modern forensic technology to re-examine well-known photos and footage, looking at how hopes of finding a surviving dinosaur were dashed by a hoax that fooled everyone, while enthusiast Adrian Shine recounts his decades-long search for the elusive beast.

Posh People: Inside Tatler
BBC2, 9pm

Forget watching Made in Chelsea – if you really want a glimpse of Britain's most privileged, just flick through the pages of Tatler. The oldest magazine in the world, it's been documenting the lives of Britain's upper-classes for 300 years, and being pictured in its pages is a rite of passage for the country's social elite. Now this new series is going behind the scenes to find out what's involved in documenting the lives of the rich and powerful. It

discovers that you don't have to be posh to work at Tatler, but it probably does help – editor Kate Reardon is a self-confessed 'hunting great Sloane', and all the features team are expected to be versed in the rules of upper-class life. For the magazine's new recruit, writer Mathew Bell, it's a chance to see how the other half live, as he attempts to go from middle-class outsider to privileged insider, at home in the company of those featured on the magazine, who range from Lord Glasgow to Nigerian millionaire Kola Karim.

TUESDAY

Live UEFA Champions League
ITV, 7.30pm

Manchester City v Bayern Munich (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the matchday five Group E clash from the Etihad Stadium, where the hosts are in desperate need of a positive result. Defeat at home to CSKA Moscow last time out left City bottom of the group and on the brink of elimination, which would be sealed if they fail to beat the German champions and CSKA or AS Roma triumph in the other encounter. The reverse fixture on matchday one saw Bayern win 1-0 courtesy of a late goal from former City defender Jerome Boateng.

Live UEFA Champions League, Tuesday, ITV, 7.30pm

while the corresponding fixture here in last season's competition also saw the Bundesliga outfit record a victory, as they completely outclassed the Citizens en route to a 3-1 scoreline. Presented by Adrian Chiles.

WEDNESDAY

Waterloo Road

BBC1, 8pm

Floyd confronts Tiffany and Justin about their relationship, and after the two boys gets into a fight, Tiffany worries her brother will spill the beans to Vaughan and Allie. The police descend on Waterloo Road when Kevin's computer hacking on a multinational organisation is traced back to the school, sparking a major security risk, and Sonya's short story looks set to jeopardise her friendship with Christina after it turns out she has drawn inspiration from her colleague's alcoholic past.

THURSDAY

Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty
Channel 5, 9pm

New series. Powerful storytelling and dramatic reconstruction bring to life one of the most bloody and violent chapters in British history as Dan Jones explores the lives of the Plantagenets, who ruled England and much of France during the Middle Ages. The historian begins with Henry II – the first king of the dynasty – a dashing and energetic warrior who transformed England from a violent and lawless state into the heart of an empire that would become one of the greatest that Europe has ever seen.

FRIDAY

Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild
Channel 5, 9pm

Ben journeys to the wilderness of Alaska to spend time with Mike and Fran Turner and their children Cathy and Nate, who welcome him into their simple, self-built log cabin. He discovers how the couple have created a self-sufficient lifestyle by working the land and trapping animals, while battling against forest fires in the summer and freezing conditions in the winter. Ben takes every opportunity to get stuck into forest survival, as he battles mosquitoes and adapts to 24-hour daylight.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

22	1	11	16	7	12	13	9
21	15	7	16	26	15	25	8
19	12	18	26	5	18	7	2
10	12	15	3	7	12	21	25
15	1	5	15	24			
18	7	20	26	16	14	7	14
1	15	25	16	1	20	26	23
21	16	25	6	26			
12	14	17	21	14	7	16	T I
13	15	6	7	14	26	18	26
26	5	1	14	19	4	14	13
3	7	15	21	14	9	14	19

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
 E G B U H Z P A Y Q V I R
 L X N T M S J F O W K C D

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

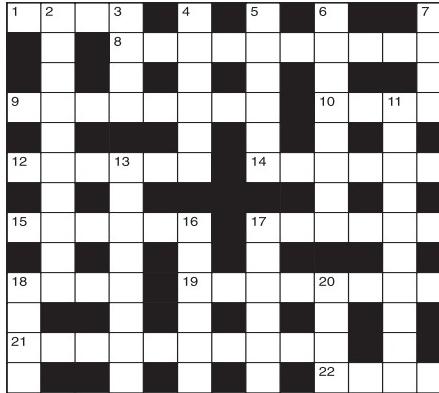
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Goddess is seen twice (4)
- A certain feeling (10)
- Flinch because of a handicap (8)
- Wise men having different image out East (4)
- Just happened to be wicked (6)
- It's said to be polite (6)
- Depression that shows in your face (6)
- Proceed directly to lead an honest life? (2,8)
- They hold an alternative view of things (6)
- A wise man changes as he grows older (4)
- Conditional statement? (8)
- Overwhelming personalities (10)
- Is not any faster at splitting points (4)

Down

- Cutting down what the pastrycook may need (10)
- Boat takes a doctor from Moscow (4)
- Not off upon a visit, but ready to make one (2,4)
- Improve on casual acquaintance (4,2)
- Bolt many together? (8)
- It turns up after an opponent (4)
- Proceed directly to lead an honest life? (2,8)
- It may be made in open court or in camera (8)
- Do some relief work? (6)
- A grease paint allowance, in part (6)
- Half the alphabet studied by physi-cists (4)
- Part of Chelsea seldom free of anxiety (4)
- Female relative (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Appear (4)
- Retort (6,4)
- Infancy (8)
- Tents (4)
- Wheedle (6)
- Ridicule (6)
- Big wave (6)
- Up-to-date (6)
- Cosy (4)
- Penitent (8)
- Neutralise (10)
- Roster (4)

Down

- Digging out (10)
- Numerous (4)
- On land (6)
- Wanted (6)
- Shadowed (8)
- Disregard (4)
- Temperance (10)
- Courteous (8)
- Evil (6)
- Handbook (6)
- III (4)

Sudoku

6	4	1			7
8	2	3	9		6
7	5	1			2
9		6	4		
2		3	1		
4	1				8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

3	7	2	8	1	5	9	4	6
6	9	5	7	3	4	1	8	2
4	8	1	9	6	2	5	7	3
1	4	3	6	8	5	1	2	9
7	5	8	3	2	9	6	4	1
9	2	6	4	5	1	8	3	7
2	6	7	1	4	8	3	9	5
8	3	9	5	7	6	4	2	1
5	1	4	2	9	3	7	6	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Ochre; 8 Redress; 9 Camelot; 10 Argon; 12 Take a chair; 15 Dumb blonde; 18 Owl; 19 Tourism; 21 Conform; 22 Gloss; Down: 2 Touch-and-go; 3 Shame; 3 Dear; 4 Griffin; 5 Advanced; 6 Belgian; 11 Narrows; miss; 13 Arbitration; 14 Ambling; 16 On time; 17 Pivot; 20 Urge;
QUICK - Across: 7 Maybe; 8 Perfect; 9 Asunder; 10 Avert; 12 Freebooter; 15 Deliberate; 18 Remit; 19 Gentle; 21 Operate; 22 Amiss; Down: 1 Ambassador; 2 Syrup; 3 Mend; 4 Sparse; 5 Breakout; 6 Beneath; 11 Thriftless; 13 Rebuttal; 14 Slumber; 16 Regret; 20 Near.

Quiz

- Which breed of dog has border and bearded varieties?
- Who wrote the four Claudine novels?
- What nationality was Captain Kidd?
- Which bird is also known as Mother Carey's chicken?
- To which group of islands does Skye belong?
- Which Scottish singer was born Marie Lawrie?
- What is the capital city of Bavaria?
- After which king is US state Georgia named?
- Which premiership football captain received an MBE in the 1994 New Year's Honours List?
- On which US tycoon's life was Citizen Kane based?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Heron; 2 Hinduism; 3 Inigo Jones; 4

The Jazz Singer; 5 Aubergine; 6 Myrna Loy; 7 Utopia; 8 Blue Nile; 9 Louis XVI; 10 Heart.

Niner: BUNGALOWS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3429 gives an animal,
58763 gives another animal,
1634589 gives a bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Send gifts to loved ones in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Mainland USA
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Orders Close Monday, Dec 8

Australasian Hampers

(Excludes Alaska and Hawaii)
 Australian Wine - £47.75
 New Zealand Wine - £47.75

• Hardys Brut Reserve Sparkling Wine, 750ml

• Hardys Semillon Chardonnay, 750ml

• Hardys Shiraz Cabernet, 750ml

Australian Food - £47.75

New Zealand Food - £47.75

• Hardys Brut Reserve Sparkling Wine, 750ml

• Whittings Christmas Fruit Cake, 500g

• Bolands Blueberry Mac, Shortbread 75g

• Ashley Mints Sticks, 80g

• Walkers Shortbread Rounds, 100g

• Walkers Nostalgia Hazelnut Toffee, 100g

• Twinnings English Breakfast Tea, 10 pkt

Australian Luxury - £54.75

New Zealand Luxury - £54.75

• Hardys Brut Reserve Sparkling Wine, 750ml

• Whittings Christmas Fruit Cake, 500g

• Napoli Hazelnut Crème Filled Wafers, 120g

• Carrs Water Crackers, 125g

• Figaro Olives with Pimentos, 142g

• Mackays Cranberry Sauce, 227g

• Gardiners Mat Whiskey Fudge, 150g

• Stern's Pfeffernusse Traditional Gingerbread Cookies, 200g

• Soetti Pretzel Sticks, 80g

• Twinnings English Breakfast Tea, 10 pkt

• Vittoria Espresso Coffee, 50g

North American Hampers

(Excludes Alaska and Hawaii)
 USA Food - £47.75
 Canadian Food - £47.75

• Twinings English Breakfast Tea (20s)

• Royal Edinburgh Shortbread Fingers, 125g

• Borges Green Olives with Pimento, 125ml

• Carr's Water Crackers, 125g

• Walkers Toffee and Pecan Biscuits, 150g

• Weston's Traditional Fruit Cake, 600g

USA Luxury - £54.75

Canadian Luxury - £54.75

• Baxter's Chicken Broth, 540ml

• Royal Edinburgh Shortbread Fingers, 125g

• Waterbridge Occasions Choc Toffee, 150g

• Waterbridge Fudge Butter, 200g

• Waterbridge Silimix Dark Mint, 75g

• Bassett's Liquorice Allsorts, 200g

• McVities Digestives, 400g

• Robertson's Scotch & Orange Marmalade, 250ml

• Emilia's Blueberry Chutney, 250ml

• Carr's Water Crackers, 125g

• Weston's Traditional Fruit Cake, 600g

Should a listed item become unavailable, a substitution of equal or greater value will be made

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 Daytime No.....

Your message (Please use CAPITALS - max 15 words).....

Six-bedroom home in village has field views



BEECH House, 46a Pine-woods Avenue, in the popular village of Hagley, is a six-bedroomed detached house with views over fields.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £599,999. Accommodation arranged on three levels includes six double bedrooms with two second floor bedrooms. It has gas fired heating with under floor heating on the ground floor, oak fronted kitchen fittings with granite work surfaces, a conservatory, house bathroom, two en-suites, and double glazing. Contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01562 888111 or www.leeshaw.com website.



hallsgb.com

Halls

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WORDSLEY CROWNOKES DRIVE FOR SALE £124,995 Spacious Ground Floor Apartment comprising of : Entrance Hall & WC, Open plan Lounge, 3 & 4' BedRooms, Two Bathrooms, En Suite Shower Room, Bathroom. Benefits to include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking	WALL HEATH MILLERS GREEN DRIVE FOR SALE £299,995 Detached Property comprising of : Entrance Hall & WC, Lounge, IMPRESSIVE KITCHEN/DINER, FOUR BEDROOMS, TWO BATHROOMS, Family Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, GARAGE	BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW FOR SALE £64,995 Well Presented Ground Floor Flat with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising of : Lounge/Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower. Benefits include Allocated Parking, Front Garden, Electric Heating, Double Glazing	KINGSWINFORD GREENFIELDS ROAD FOR SALE £127,500 Semi Detached Property comprising of : Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, BathRoom. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Frontage, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Garden.
WORDSLEY BALMORAL ROAD FOR SALE £159,950 Semi Detached House with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising of : Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Understair storage, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage, Driveway	BRIERLEY HILL BROMLEY FOR SALE £124,950 Semi Detached Property with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising of : Lounge, Fully Fitted Kitchen, Two BedRooms, BathRoom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	AMBLECOTE KING WILLIAM STREET FOR SALE £156,000 Semi Detached Property with NO UPWARD CHAIN, having had a full refurbishment to include high quality kitchen and bathroom. Comprises of : Lounge, Fully Fitted Kitchen, Two BedRooms, BathRoom. Benefits include: Electric Heating, Off Road Parking and Visitor Parking	BRIERLEY HILL NORTH STREET FOR SALE OIRO £89,995 Well Presented, Modern Ground Floor Apartment. Comprises of : Entrance Hall with Store, Spacious Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Two Good Size BedRooms, BathRoom. Benefits include: Electric Heating, Off Road Parking
GORNAL BARR STREET £545 pcm* End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two BedRooms, BathRoom, Rear Garden, Unfurnished, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating	WORDSLY COLDSTREAM DRIVE £695 pcm* Semi-Detached House, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three BedRooms, BathRoom with shower, Driveway, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing	DUDLEY RUSSELLS HALL ROAD £550 pcm* Fully Refurbished Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double BedRooms, BathRoom with shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED	WORDSLY CROWNOKES DRIVE £575 pcm* Ground Floor Flat, Communal Entrance, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, En Suite, BathRoom, Off Road Parking, Maintained Communal Grounds, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED
LYE KING STREET £495 pcm* Mid Terrace House, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, BathRoom with shower, Gardens to Front & Rear, Off Road Parking to rear for 2 cars, Gas Central Heating, Sealed Units, UNFURNISHED	BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW £395 pcm* Mid Terrace House, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, BathRoom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, UNFURNISHED	BRIERLEY HILL WELLS ROAD £575 pcm* Mid-Terraced House, Entrance Hall, Good Sized Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, BathRoom, Double Glazing, Off road parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED	PENSNETT TILED HOUSE LANE £625 pcm* Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, BathRoom with shower, Off Road Parking for 2/3 cars, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.
FOXDALE DRIVE £395 pcm* Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, BathRoom, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking	TIPTON DUDLEY PORT ROAD £420 pcm* Ground Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, BathRoom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off road parking, Maintained communal grounds, Unfurnished	DUDLEY LIMES ROAD £525 pcm* Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, BathRoom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished	WALL HEATH CROSS STREET £775 pcm* Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three BedRooms, BathRoom with shower, Carport, Off road parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
NETHERTON NORWICH ROAD £525 pcm* Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, BathRoom, Three BedRooms, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	WALL HEATH ENVILLE ROAD £375 pcm* First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Re-Fitted BathRoom with shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED	SELDGEY THE PADDOCK £695 pcm* Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, FOUR BedRooms, BathRoom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	STOURBRIDGE BAGLEYS ROAD £395 pcm* Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing

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QUARRY PARK ROAD STOURBRIDGE

An impressive seven bedroom detached family home situated in a very desirable location and being close to Hagley village. The accommodation comprises of: Ground reception hall, sitting room, drawing room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility, cloakroom, stairs to first floor, landing, seven double bedrooms five of which have en suite facilities, family bathroom and a spacious first floor landing/staircase. The property further boasts paved parking for numerous vehicles, integral garaging with up and over garage doors and landscaped lawned gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £2999PCM DEPOSIT £3099 - FEES

BICKON DRIVE QUARRY BANK

A delightful modern three storey four bedroom Town House with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs WC, study/snug, kitchen/diner, lounge, four bedrooms, master with en-suite and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, lawned fore garden, enclosed rear garden with patio area and single garage. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £695PCM - DEPOSIT £795 + FEES



IBIS GARDENS KINGSWINFOR

An extremely well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, WC, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden, block paved driveway affording off road parking and garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £895PCM DEPOSIT £995 + FEES



VICAR STREET SEDGLEY

An extremely well presented three bedroom detached property with accommodation to comprise of kitchen, lounge/diner, master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, central heating, tarmacadam driveway affording off road parking to the fore, garage with separate boiler store and to the rear of the property there is a patio, lawned garden and timber shed. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £650PCM DEPOSIT £750 = FEES

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

NEW INSTRUCTION

A modern three story four bedroom Town House with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs WC, study/snug, kitchen/diner, lounge, four bedrooms, master with en-suite and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, lawned fore garden, enclosed rear garden with patio area and single garage. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £695PCM - DEPOSIT £795 + FEES



CLARENCE STREET SEDGLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £525PCM- DEPOSIT £625 - FEES



BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD COSEY

A very well presented two bedroom second floor Apartment with accommodation comprising of: Communal entrance with video entry phone system & communal staircase to 2nd floor, private entrance hall with built in airing cupboard, open plan lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric storage heating, double glazing and secure gated complex with parking space. FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £550.00PCM DEPOSIT £650 + FEES

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented two bedroom modern starter home situated in a popular development with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £450PCM DEPOSIT £550 + FEES



ELBOW STREET CRADLEY HEATH

A two bedroom unfurnished apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance hall, private reception, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from electric storage heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £470PCM DEPOSIT £570 + FEES

HAGLEY ROAD HALESOWEN

A deceptively spacious three bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Private Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC. The property further benefits from having night storage heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: MAY CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKING: NO £425PCM DEPOSIT £525 - FEES

FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A beautiful two bedroom first floor apartment in a popular residential development. The property benefits from double glazing and allocated parking. The accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance hall, Private entrance hall, 'L' Shaped Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom and Two Bedrooms. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £400PCM DEPOSIT £500 + FEES



BALLARAT WALK STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise Communal entrance, private entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, communal gardens and communal parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO £395PCM DEPOSIT £495 - FEES

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Classic is now up to date

By John Griffiths

Remember those sounds of the Sixties? The Beatles, the Who, the Rolling Stones, Cream – and the cream of British motorcyles which ruled the roads.

There's little on today's roads, apart from an E-Type Jag perhaps, which is so evocative of that golden age of British transport as the Triumph Bonneville.

But nostalgia is at least in part about looking back through rose tinted spectacles (and I'm not just talking hippies) so sometimes we forget the downsides like awful drum brakes, lights measured in a handful of candlepower and oil leaks.

Thankfully, today's Triumph engineers lost the specs, rose tints and all, and created a new Bonneville which respects the 60s icon but is thoroughly modern, featuring such things as a bigger, fuel-injected engine and disc brakes to make it a thoroughly useable, enjoyable machine for the 21st Century.

The homage to two eras starts with the 865cc, overhead cam parallel twin-engine – original Bonnies were the same configuration but 650s, later enlarged to 750cc.

Look at the modern block and you'll see what appears to be a pair of carbs but in fact they conceal a thoroughly modern fuel-injection system and electronic ignition which is more efficient, improving throttle response while reducing fuel consumption and exhaust emissions.

And it starts more easily, too, with the

press of a button and not a kick-start (which on old big bikes would occasionally kick you back).

The 2014 Bonnie retains the classic, chromed 'peashooter' style twin exhausts but they've been modified to produce a more authentic soundtrack.

It does hark back to the 60s and there's nothing else quite like it: a bass duet to accompany your journey with an occasional 'pop pop' chorus as you shut off the power. To me it has so much more character than modern four-cylinder or V-twin unit.

You also get disc brakes front and rear – only a single disc at the front but it performs competently for a bike of this weight and performance.

Heritage

Triumph calls the bike a classic and that's a good as description as any. It's not a sports or adventure bike and in other manufacturer's hands its nature could be described as a 'cruiser' but the Midlands company has a rich heritage of its own so, thankfully, didn't have to produce a Harley-Davidson lookalike.

Many riders will find the Bonnie's performance and handling better than some of that ilk, too. It has a gutsy 67bhp and 68Nm of torque from relatively low revs which means there's enough get up and go to feel a powerful tug on your arms as you press on up through the gears. Top (fifth) gear is set quite high, for quieter cruising and economy.

Top speed is estimated at 115mph, which is more than enough for a bike designed for British roads and not track days, and there's plenty of oomph.



TESTED

Triumph Bonneville T100

Engine: 865cc, air-cooled parallel twin with 67bhp and 68Nm of torque. Five-speed gearbox and chain final drive.

Economy: urban 51.2mpg; constant 56mph 68mpg; constant 75mph 55.6mpg (fuel tank 16 litres).

Warranty: Two years, unlimited mileage.

Insurance: Group 9 of 17.

Price: £7,599.

It's a naked bike, too, so wind pressure (and the constraints of the law) tends to restrict any temptation to press on for the magical 'ton up' of 60s bikers, and could be tiring on long motorway runs.

OK, you could no doubt find an after-market screen but quite honestly it would ruin the classic lines of the Bonnie which Triumph have worked so hard to preserve, and which is a compelling reason for buying one.

The test bike, a top of the range T100 with spoked chrome wheels, chrome crankcase and gearbox covers, a chrome chain guard and a colour scheme of fusion white with gold coach lines, certainly turned heads (including mine).

I found it a charismatic bike just to look at, as well as to ride on my 150-mile trip through Shropshire and Mid-Wales, the T100 growing on me as I explored its capabilities.

It averaged around 60mpg, so not an expensive day out either.

It's not a heavy bike and doesn't have (or in fact need) the big fat tyres you'd expect on a supersports machine, but its straight line stability is impressive and it tracks accurately through the corners too.

The suspension (telescopic forks at the front and twin, chromed spring shocks at the rear) cope well with rough b-roads, providing a reasonable balance between ride comfort and competent handling.

I found it inspired confidence and, like a dog owner is said to grow to look like their pet, the Bonneville shared some of its character with me which made for a relaxed, stress-free ride.

The traditionally-styled seat is flat rather

than sculpted but rather well padded, while the high bars and well-placed controls allow for an upright riding position comfortable for longer rides. The extra padding is new, and certainly welcome for those of us heading for the hills, or the beach.

There's plenty of room for a pillion passenger, and the latest T100 now gets a sturdy chrome grab handle to add to their sense of security.

The basic Bonneville costs £6,799 while the T100 comes in at £7,599, with the extra buying you the traditional wire-spoked wheels and paint schemes, the distinctive engine and chain guard chrome features, and protective rubber gaiters covering the front suspension, plus large twin analogue dials (speedo and rev counter).

If you're not keen on all that chrome, there's a T100 Black option.

The Bonneville name comes from the famous salt flats in Utah where once Triumph successfully challenged for world motorcycle speed records.

Modern Bonnies have been produced by today's Triumph company at Hinckley, Leicestershire, since 2001 and are sold all over the world, proving that it isn't just nostalgia and flying the flag for Britain's motorcycle heritage which have made it such a big seller.

It no doubt strikes a chord with those who appreciate such things, but it would hardly be so popular if Triumph hadn't created an excellent blend of classic styling with modern technology and capability.

It's relaxing, easy to ride and just as competent as a commuter, a tourer or simply your chosen steed for a Sunday run out in the country.



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Jimny gets a freshen up

By Anthony Martyn

Suzuki has given some specification upgrades to its highly popular Jimny compact 4x4 model, aimed at refreshing the appeal of the iconic model in the Suzuki range.

First introduced in 1998, Jimny has built up an established, tough and capable reputation amongst its 22,000 loyal owners in the UK with many currently on their third or even fourth new Jimny.

Steel Silver and Khaki Green have been added to the metallic paint range of five shades available for the higher specification SZ4 model with three metallic and

one solid colour available for SZ3. Metallic paint is a £399 option.

A new seat fabric has been adopted for the SZ3 and SZ4 features new design 15-inch alloy wheels finished in dark Silver.

In line with EU regulations both SZ3 and SZ4 models now have a new design instrument cluster that includes a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) for added safety as well as a Gear Shift Indicator (GSI) to help the driver keep fuel consumption to a minimum.

The 2015 model is also equipped with ESC (Electronic Stability Control) as standard.

Jimny has a neat and practical look and since sales began in 1998 it has accumulated a loyal following of customers who enjoy a quirky alternative to a supermini or crossover SUV.



'First introduced in 1998, Jimny has built up an established, tough and capable reputation.'

Jimny exceeds expectations off road whilst still being more than capable in any urban area, ideal for customers who want the best of both worlds.

The all-alloy 16 valve 1.3-litre engine has variable valve timing, ensuring lively performance, and strong fuel economy with the manual transmission model returning an official 39.8mpg in combined cycle driving (38.7mpg for the automatic); respective

CO₂ outputs are 162 and 167g/km.

All Jimny models are covered by a three-year/60,000-mile new vehicle warranty, one year AA Suzuki Assistance, providing 24-hour UK and European roadside assistance, recovery and associated services; and by a six year perforation warranty.

On the road prices include VAT, delivery to dealer, number plates and First Registration Fee.

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accommodation to let

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LARGE SELF CONTAINED Studio Flat, Tattenhall Road, Parkings, CH, laundry. 01902 334081

ONE BED FLAT, 1st floor, Tattenhall, quiet cul de sac. £395pcm. Telephone 07866 014788.

SMART ROOMS in shared house in Netherton. Single. £85pw. Double £95pw inc bills. No DSS. 01384 401747 / 07940 116130.

TWO BED SEMI, semi, W-ton. Alarmed, CH, front / rear gardens. £450pm exx bills. No DSS. 01902 276488 / 07910 761607.

WILLENHALL 2-bed, CH, DG, £450pm exx bills. No DSS. 01902 276488 / 07910 761607.

3/4 BED HOUSE Cosley, full refurb, spacious, parking and gardens. £575pm. 07855 725639.

bungalows



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Offers around £295,000.
01384 233961.
07793 606238



houses for sale

ADDITION ROAD Brierley Hill, 3 bed in need of total makeover, repossession property. £59,950. Call G & T Properties. 01384 261997.

TWO BUNGALOWS SEMI DETACHED KIDDERMINSTER

Both two bedroom. In need of modernisation, substantial plot of land, our car workshop at rear, sold as one unit.

£265,000.
Telephone 01562 822266
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Motoring

cars over £1500

cars under £1500

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ALFA ROMEO MITO LUSSO T 3-dr, 2009, black, 1 owner, FSH, £4,550. 01902 847906 / 07850 957670.

BMW SERIES 318I SE SALOON, 2003 1 owner, Only 50,000 miles, Part ex, full service history, £6,500. o.n.o. 07852 118084.

FORD FIESTA 1.2 petrol, 55 Reg 2006, 50,000 miles, full MOT, 2 owners, fsh, immaculate, £1,595. 07908 649713.

MERCEDES C CLASS Advantage, 2001, silver, fsh, excellent condition, 100,000 miles, full MOT, £1,395 o.n.o. 07913 981460.

PEUGEOT 207, 2007, 72 miles, 1.4, 3 door, silver, petrol, a/c, 6 months MOT, CD/MP3 stereo, cambelt change 2014, £2,150 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 2002, 51,000 miles, 2L black, fsh, long Mot, HPI clear, £1,250 o.n.o. 07961 513840

VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI CDTI
2008, black, 5dr, FSH.
One previous owner, 9 months Mot, £49,000 miles.
Only £130 annual Road Tax.
£3,500 no offers.

Good reason for sale.
Contact: 01902 722788.

VAUXHALL CORSA 07, 3dr, silver, 1.25Xi, long Mot, CD player, e/w, alloy wheels, very good condition, 20,000 miles, £1,250 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRI NAV160 CDTI, 2009, silver, 43,600 miles, 20" alloys, FSH, Full MOT, £6,450. Genuine car only. 07759 060350.

VW GOLF GT, FSi, 2.0L, 04, MOT Aug 2015, recent cam belt, 150k, blue, service history, £1,650. o.n.o. 01902 745777, 07548 511612.

VW POLO 1.2, 2011, 61 plate, 11 months Mot, good condition, 59,500 miles, reliable, £5,000. o.n.o. 01902 745777, 07791 076789.

VW POLO 1.2, 56 reg, red, 5-dr, 67,000 miles, 1 part cam belt, Mot history/just serviced, £2,200. 01384 258061, 07759 237779.

RENTAL VW POLO, good condition, 1.2, 5-dr, 67,000 miles, 1 part cam belt, Mot history/just serviced, £2,200. 01384 258061, 07759 237779.

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01562 711083 /

07831 245133

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ROVER 25 2004, MoT September 2015, 68,000 miles, new cambelt, gold, good condition / runner. £950. o.n.o. 07895 761908

ROVER 25 Facelift, 1.4, black, 54 plate, 68k miles, MoT July 2015, 1C, some service history, £75. o.n.o. Dudley 01384 594933.

PRIVATE BUYER wanted diesel car any age considered, cash waiting. 01902 628908.

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accessories & services

BOX TRAILER, 4ft x 3ft x 18ins, drop down back, 145x10 wheels, independent suspension, trailerboard electrics, £135. 07976 244483.

classic cars

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01630 652993.

commercial vehicles

PEUGEOT 206 1.4GLX
2002, 69,000 miles, green, 2L,
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con, fsh, alarm, MoT March c/l,
pas, CD, 5 dr, 2 new tyres.

£850.

07801 030993.

motorbikes

PEUGEOT 206 CONVERTIBLE, 2002, 69,000 miles, white, full MOT till Aug 2015. Good runner. £1,300. o.n.o. 07872 777777.

PEUGEOT 206 Estate, 1.4, 90k, 05 reg, MoT, A/C, PAS, CD, 1 lady owner. Excellent condition. £1,175.

PEUGEOT 206 silver, 2L, hatchback, 95,000 miles, reliable, good condition. FSH. MoT, air con, CD player, 1.4, 90k, 05 reg, MoT, A/C, PAS, CD, 1 lady owner. Excellent condition. £1,175.

PEUGEOT 307 HDI DIESEL, (04), black, long MOT, fsh, Beautiful condition, £1,250. 07867 685569.

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BARBARA 38 slim sporty attractive blonde, varied interests, single and ready to date, seeks kind honest guy for shared interests, fun nights out, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414967

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 414343

JULIE single petite attractive big blue eyed blonde, loves cooking a cosy meal in, nights out, searching for real love with genuinely nice guy. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414491

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel No: 0905 002 1891 Box No: 407953

GOOD looking professional lady, 56, enjoys the arts, country walks, meals out, seeks compatible, genuine, professional gent to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415007

JANE, 40s, tall, blonde leggy lady, honest and keen to meet gent for fun times. I can make you happy! Tel No: 0905 002 1895 Box No: 361745

ANGIE 38yrs slim blonde, ex model with lovely long legs with shapely figure, fit, toned, sporty, confident but warm, WLTM similar perceptive, sensitive individual for tel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414723

SALLY, 38yrs largely cuddly lady, seeks slim men for discreet meetings. Text Only 4550193

BECKY stunning big blue eyed 38yrd old honest, caring and fun person looking for nice times with similar outgoing fun guy, status/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414391

TRUDY 36yrs, with broadminded men of any age/area for daytime meetings. Text Only 4550194

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no strings fun. Text Only 4550198

NICOLA 32, blue eyes, petite, pretty blonde, shy at first, trustworthy, caring, varied hobbies, seeks male/single dad up to 40yrs for possible it. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414707

JENNI, 52 bored housewife wants no strings fun with younger chap. Text Only 4550197

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414277

KAREN petite 34y old attractive blonde, likes pubs, clubs, meals out, gym, looking for honest caring guy who can make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414373

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TONY young looking 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim rock chick, trendy for dates and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413049

KEVIN 53, looking for a friend/partner and a lover. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412869

NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent, GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412867

MAURICE gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, generous, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality, slim build with build. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412859

STEPHEN, 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412633

MALCOLM 61, smoker, great personality, likes coach holidays, drives, pub, meals out, nights out, 60's music, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412523

TONY 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481

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SONYA slim attractive vibrant lady with GSOH, social nature, fit/active. WLTM nice up to 60yrs for romantic, genuine respectful relationship, loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414723

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EVA European beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship, call me to find out more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413008

EMILY petite young looking 31yr old attractive single Brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321

EMILY petite blonde, short in stature, big honest, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honesty, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413405

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EMMIE 50, attractive blonde, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412181

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks talk, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414159

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to lose, call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409159

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no likes, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409175

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va voom, 35-45. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409175

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for MR Right as for M Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for loyally spontaneous guy who like just wants good company and a nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641

KATHERINE 35y old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks, unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411775

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes in/out, lots of TLC to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411204

GARY 6ft 2ins, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 30-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919

SLIM male, 59, seeks no strings adult fun with broadminded mature woman, 65 plus.

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Ben hits the ton to set up replay

Blyth Spartans 1 Halesowen 1

BEN HASELEY scored his 100th goal in a Halesowen shirt to give the Yeltz a second chance of beating Blyth.

The Evo-Stik Premier rivals will meet again at The Grove to replay the FA Trophy second qualifying round tie after a dramatic finish on Saturday.

Haseley struck after 89 minutes when he lifted the ball over Blyth keeper Peter Jeffries after Ryan Hutchinson's attempted clearance was blocked.

His century of goals have come in just 130 league and cup appearances.

Halesowen started in lively fashion with Iyedden Christie heading just wide from an Aaron Griffiths corner on 15 minutes, and then hitting the post after Haseley found him with a pass.

It was a game of few chances but the North-East side took the lead in 54 minutes when Robbie Dale got on the end of a ball from Nathan Buddle to steer it home.

Although Halesowen enjoyed the most possession in the second half, it looked like they were heading out of the tournament until Haseley's late intervention.

Dudley's Vase run is ended

SILHILL 4 Team Dudley 1

A positive start from Dudley saw them move the ball well on a very wide pitch, however, the first chance fell to Silhill in 11 minutes, they headed an effort on target with Jones pushing it on to the bar. Fourteen minutes in and Silhill had a lead. James Ward gifted them the ball in midfield and they broke and shot across Liam Jones into the corner.

Just inside the second half Silhill doubled their lead. A 30 yard shot caught Jones out.

James Hill halved the arrears for TD.

A corner ended up being volleyed home for Silhill who went 4-1 up just after the hour.

Clegg is rider with the Max for Heathens



Nathan Greaves, Tom Perry, Steve Worrall, Paul Starke, Danny Phillips and Max Clegg

TEENAGE ace Max Clegg celebrated winning Cradley's rider of the year award and then vowed to stay with the club for their move to Perry Barr.

Clegg lifted the Ivor Hughes Memorial trophy at the Heathens' presentation night at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill after helping the team to four major trophies. And with a switch to Birmingham for home meetings confirmed to rescue the club from possible closure, Clegg is wanting more of the same next year.

"I'm absolutely buzzing about this award," said Clegg. "Cradley must have the best fans in the sport, everything they've

Speedway

gone through and they still turn up in massive numbers.

"I can't thank them enough for their support and as an asset of the club I'm proud of what we have achieved over the last couple of seasons."

"I also feel moving to Birmingham as a home track will benefit me as a rider so I really hope to get the nod to come back to the club, depending on what the points limit is. At the age of 17 I still feel another year in

the National League will be good for me and I would be aiming to become one of the top riders in the league."

Matt Williamson, in only his second season of speedway after switching from motor cross, was voted most improved rider by the club's management.

And Danny Phillips, in his first full season of league racing, won the most bonus points award.

Heathens will be racing National League home meetings at Perry Barr on alternate Wednesdays next season and the club have confirmed they are looking at the possibility of coach travel to help fans get there.

Evans may have to face surgery

LEE EVANS may have to undergo surgery in what could be another injury blow to Wolves.

The 20-year-old midfielder has suffered a broken scaphoid and has been playing with a cast for several weeks.

Evans has been experiencing some discomfort after damaging the bone between the hand and forearm on the thumb side of the wrist.

Beckham suffered the same injury when as England captain he fell heavily during a 2-1 victory over South Africa in May 2003.

Evans had to wait again for his Wales debut after being a non-playing member of Chris Coleman's squad that played a Euro 2016 qualifier away to Belgium last night.

"Lee Evans has a hand injury he's been playing with, with the aid of a small splint," said head coach Kenny Jackett.

"It will either clear up in the next couple of weeks or he'll need to have it operated on."

"It will only be a minor operation - it won't keep him out long."

Wolves are currently without Dave Edwards and Scott Golbourne, although there is an outside chance both may be fit for Saturday.

Thirteen is lucky for Ashfield

THE second West Midlands cross country League meeting, saw 21 Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers (Dash) taking part in the action at Wolverhampton.

Highest placed Dash runner on the day was Reece Ashfield, who improved in the under-15 boys race for 13th place with Jay Piantoro in 36th.

Tom Slater put in a good show in the under-13 boys race for 15th as Harry Walters moved up 30 places on the first race for 40th, with Alex Hurrell 43rd and Adam Bodin 54th.

Grace Slater and Elliot Jones both ran well as Grace was 37th from 170 plus runners in the under-13 girls race and Elliot 15th in the under-17 men's.

Rampant Lions tie Veseyans in Nootts

Veseyans 20 Lions 70

THE Lions travelled to Veseyans on Saturday determined to look for their second win in a row.

The outcome had Stourton Park statisticians scrambling for the record books after a massive win. The result was firmly built on a dynamic and powerful performance by the pack.

They had a dominant front five in scrum and lineout and another outstanding display by the back row, where Tom Nott and O'Sullivan were both close to man of the match.

Eleven tries sent the Lions up to fifth place and further daylight between them and the bottom three. Curiously the game began with a well-worked try from Veseyans' backs after a couple of missed tackles on half way let their full back in down the Lions' right.

Soon after, however a try by the outstanding Nott and a conversion by Ben Trinham gave the Lions a lead they never relinquished.

By 18 minutes a penalty by Trinham and a try by Josh Trinham against a sin bin penalty by the home side gave the Lions a 15-8 lead.

Another penalty by Trinham and a conversion to O'Sullivan's try under the posts pushed the Lions out to 25 points and the bonus points.

A second try for Nott at the half merely emphasised the dominance of the Lions eight in the first 40 mins.

The second half opened with the third try for Nott to add to the half-time lead, a move from the kick-off.

There was still time for two converted tries, both by Chance, one of which saw him outpace a fading defence down the middle. This week Lions visit Bridgnorth.

Sam's the man as he takes out opponent



Sam Eggington, standing, who ended the fight against Sébastien Allais. Picture Russell Pritchard

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington will be a part of big-time boxing again by late January after cutting his night short in style on Saturday, writes Craig Birch.

Veteran Frenchman Sébastien Allais was brought in to give Eggington rounds but didn't get past the first, in front of the Sky Sports cameras.

Spectators at the 3Arena in Dublin, Ireland, felt Allais' pain as he crumpled in a heap from a short left

hand that broke two of his ribs. The fight was 105 seconds old.

The contest had been reduced from eight to six rounds at late notice, but the Midlands welterweight champion didn't need anything like that sort of distance to get the job done.

And the 21-year-old impressed the Matchroom Boxing promoters sufficiently to already be offered a spot on the bill of Anthony Crolla's world title fight.

It was also announced at the weekend that Crolla will challenge Richard Abril for the WBA lightweight title at the Manchester Arena on January 23.

Eggington said: "It was a nice early night for me and a shot I have been practising. It really worked out for me this time."

"I didn't really expect it to end that quickly, because he's only been stopped once."



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Lions roar

Veseyans squad is tied up in Notts

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Sam's the man

Eggington ends bout in under two minutes

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email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Stour are put out of trophy running

Kings Lynn 3 Stourbridge 1
TWO late goals sent Stourbridge out of the FA Trophy after a second qualifying round replay had looked on the cards.

The first half was even, but Stourbridge had the first chance when George Bowerman went through but home goalkeeper Alex Street raced off his line to block the effort.

The Glassboys were looking dangerous but it was the Evo-Stik Premier side who took the lead when Michael Frew fed George Thomson who managed to put the ball past visiting keeper Dean Coleman.

Thomson then hit the post for the Norfolk side but Stourbridge equalised on 38 minutes when a pass by Drew Cannon found Jordan Fitzpatrick and he put the ball low into the corner of the net.

Stourbridge looked dangerous in the second half, though neither team created many chances, and just as it looked as if there would be a replay at Amblecote, Lynn's Gregg Smith broke the deadlock on 89 minutes when he stabbed the ball home.

To rub salt into the Glassboys' wounds, Coleman brought Thomson down in and the striker saw his penalty saved only for Smith to score with the rebound.

Quiet week for runners

IT was a quiet week for athletes from Dudley King-Swiftness Running Club.

With only a handful of races it was a chance to concentrate on training rather than pin a number to the vest for most club members, but there was always a chance of someone racing somewhere. A couple of club members didn't have to travel far to shave a chunk off their best times.

Paul Baker finished 103rd in a personal best time of 1:41.34 and Dave Ede also recorded a PB of 1:49.19 in 136th place in the Autumn Shakespeare Half Marathon, a pancake flat event at the Shakespeare County Raceway in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

The course was made up of multiple laps of 5km on closed roads, the only thing to negotiate were other runners in the 5k, 10k, half and full Marathon.

Delight as Heathens live to ride another day



New signing Michael Neale, centre, with promoter Gary Patchett and Will Pottinger

CRADLEY fans raised the roof at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill after news broke of the club's survival for 2015.

Almost 300 riders, officials and supporters packed the Earls Suite to hear the news that the reigning National League champions will be back to defend their title with home meetings at Birmingham's Perry Barr Stadium.

And in a further boost for the sport it was confirmed the Brummies will also return to the track – also in the National League – after their mid-season collapse this year through financial troubles.

Speedway
Heathens lost the use of Monmore Green which is only available for Elite League Wolves next year and there have been serious concerns over possible closure of the former Dudley Wood outfit.

But club co-boss Gary Patchett said: "It's been hard, it's been tough, but we have agreed an arrangement with Birmingham to share Perry Barr next year."

"We have done this purely because of the supporters. We have so far been unsuccess-

ful in finding a piece of land to call our own in the Dudley or Sandwell area so we are still relying on other venues.

"I even had a call from King's Lynn asking if we could go there! There has been so much goodwill but I would like to thank Tony Mole at Birmingham and hope the Brummies fans turn out to support their side as well."

The club also confirmed their first signing for 2015 after reaching agreement with Michael Neale. Neale, from Manchester, will start the season in one of the reserve positions on a three-point average.

Crowd control changes

THIS Saturday Stourbridge FC host FC United of Manchester at the War Memorial Athletic Ground and the club are anticipating a large crowd.

As a result, special arrangements will be in place for the fixture.

All home supporters will be required to enter the ground via the 'bottom drive' turnstiles, opposite the church.

The away team have been allocated all the Shed End of the ground around to a cordoned off point and FC United supporters only will be allowed to enter the ground via the Memorial Arch main entrance, opposite the closed Royal Oak pub.

They will have use of the cricket pavilion during the afternoon with the Glassboys Bar open to home fans only.

Supporters are requested to park away from the ground or use public transport and be respectful of local residents when parking. Parking is available in Old Wharf Road, Mill Race Lane or the DMBC car park in Birmingham Street. Supporters are asked to come early to avoid congestion.

Tividale match is rained off

TIVIDALE were out of action on Saturday after a waterlogged pitch put paid to their home match with Brigg Town in the Evo-Stik Division One South.

However, the holders are through to the last eight of this season's JW Hunt Cup after handing out a beating to Wednesfield where they won 3-1 at home.

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STOUR HAVE TO SHARE REWARDS

Stourbridge 17 Sedgley Park 17

STOURBRIDGE refreshingly finished the stronger, both sides struggled to break down their opponents defence.

The hosts rode their luck somewhat but their better discipline paid dividends and the draw was arguably a fair result. The tone was set in the early exchanges.

A hanging clearance kick by scrum half Jacob Nash produced a first foray into Sedgley Park territory when chasing wingers Nathan Bressington and Stefan Cooksammy forced a penalty, but the subsequent line-out was again lost and the ball-in-hand running battle resumed.

A knock on by the visitors was hoofed through by Bressington who ran it and the ball was worked to second row Juan Crous who barged through to score near the posts.

An undercooked restart kick gifted possession back to the visitors, they attacked again and from an innocuous-looking build-up managed to fashion a mismatch when winger Andrew Riley found himself with room to run around a defending prop.

Ryan slotted a penalty though to reduce the deficit. The lead was restored though as the game entered the final quarter, the Stour front row popping up in the scrum and Collins slotting in the penalty.

Mark George forced another penalty and Stour laid siege to the visitors' line. The defences just about held until a five metre scrum was driven over for Drew Harper to score. Ryan converted.

Ryan slotted a far-from-straightforward conversion, but Stour's misfiring lineout allowed Sedgley to score.



No way through for the Sedgley attackers as the Stourbridge defence closes the run down

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